

BODIE

STATE HISTORIC PARK

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN,
GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN,
and
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT



State of California — The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION
SEPTEMBER 1979

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

P. O. BOX 2390, SACRAMENTO 95811



Resolution 6 - 79
Resolution adopted by the
CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
at its regular meeting in Columbia
January 19, 1979

WHEREAS the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation has presented to this Commission for approval the proposed Resource Management Plan, General Development Plan, and Environmental Impact Report for Bodie State Historic Park; and

WHEREAS this reflects the long-range development plan as to provide for the optimum use and enjoyment of the unit as well as the protection of its quality;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the State Park and Recreation Commission approves the Department of Parks and Recreation's "Resource Management Plan and General Development Plan for Bodie State Historic Park," Preliminary dated October 1978 subject to such environmental changes as the Director of Parks and Recreation shall determine advisable and necessary to implement carrying out the provisions and objectives of said plan, and with the following addition to the plan:

Page 45.4. It is recommended that the Department shall work with the local and federal governments to study and resolve mutually the conflicts in land uses arising from mining activities and road alignment. 5. Open pit mining is not considered to be an acceptable resolution.

BODIE

STATE HISTORIC PARK

Resource Management Plan, General Development Plan
and Environmental Impact Report

SEPTEMBER 1979

Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor
State of California

Huey D. Johnson
Secretary for Resources

Russell W. Cahill
Director
Department of Parks and Recreation



State of California — The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
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SUMMARY

This document provides resource management policies and development proposals, and assesses the impacts of these policies and proposals. The primary emphasis of these plans is the preservation, protection, and interpretation of Bodie's natural and cultural resources.

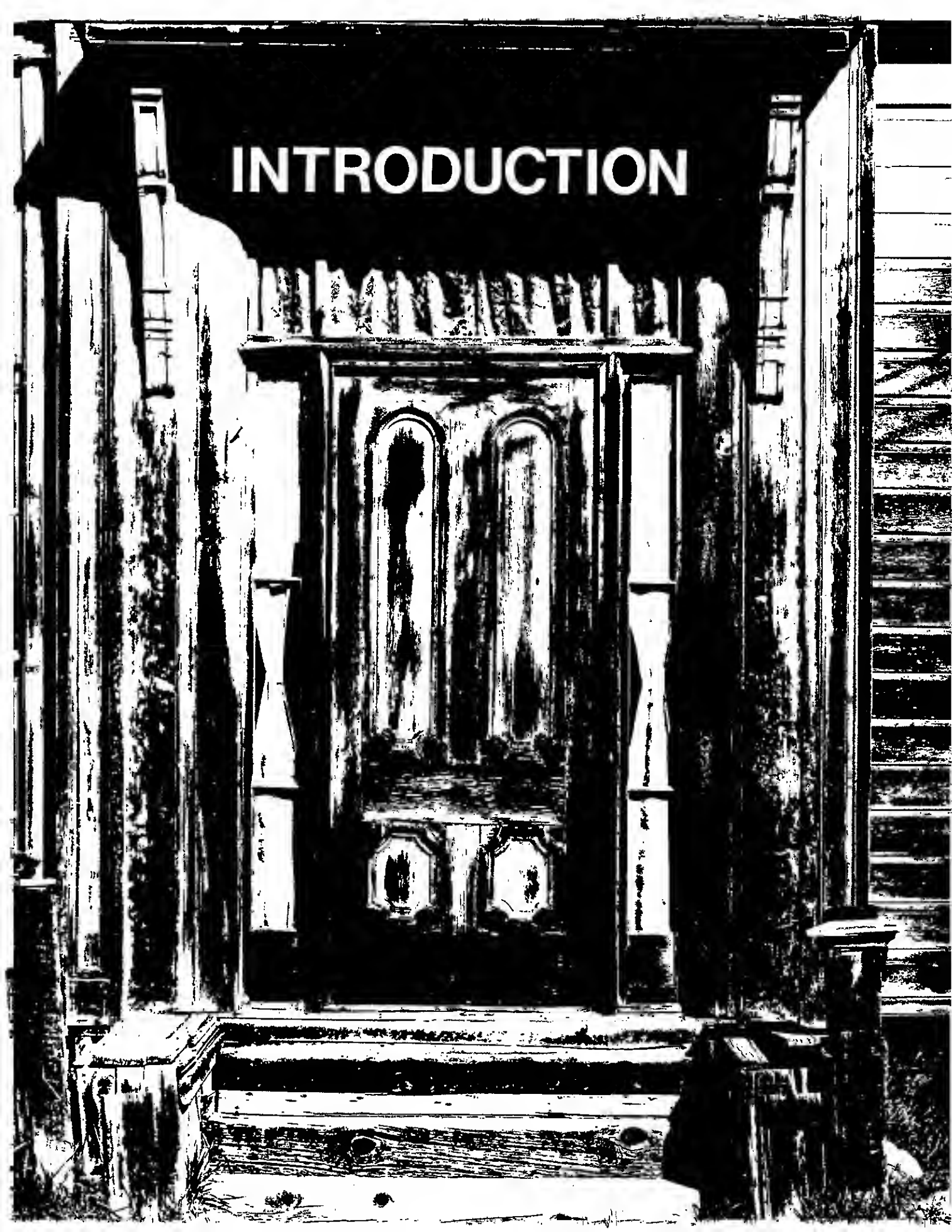
The resource management policies and development proposals recommend that the old mining town of Bodie be maintained in its historic and natural setting, in a manner that retains the "ghost town" atmosphere. Activities or features which detract from Bodie's authenticity will be minimized or relocated away from the historic townsite. Park operational facilities now considered visually intrusive will be removed outside the historic area. Additional lands surrounding Bodie will be required for these new facilities. These lands

could also provide a protective buffer zone around the historic area.

Additional protection will be possible by reducing the four access roads to just one entrance road with no through traffic allowed in the Bodie Bowl. Within the town, the interpretive program will emphasize the "self-discovery of a ghost mining town." An interpretive center outside the historic area will also provide additional interpretation of Bodie's past.

The environmental impact report in this document found that there would be *no significant environmental effects* created by the proposed actions. It was established that most long-term effects will be beneficial, and will result in improved protection and preservation of Bodie's resources.

INTRODUCTION





PLAN PURPOSE

A comprehensive plan for Bodie is needed for the following reasons:

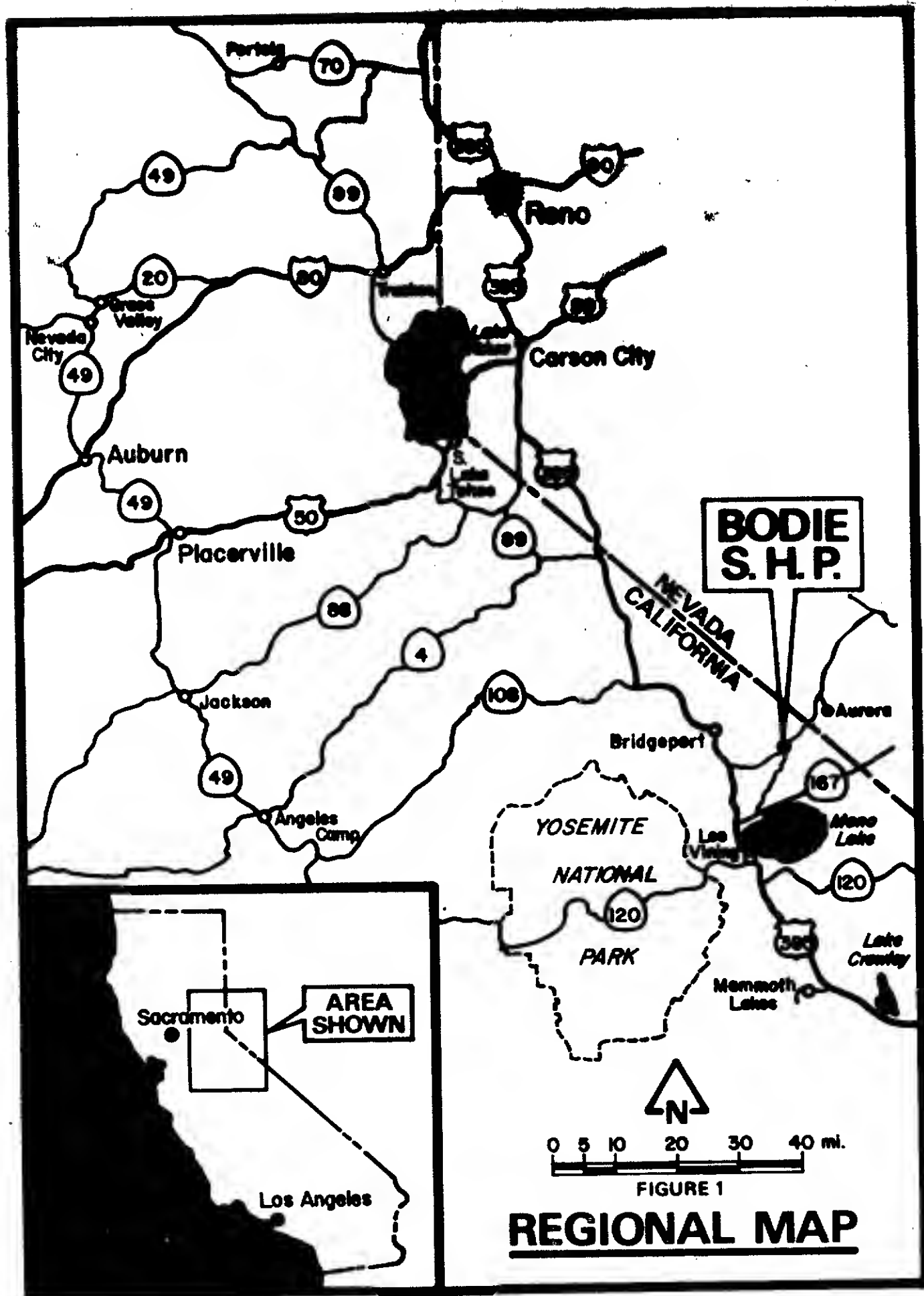
- o to insure that existing artifacts and historic structures are properly protected and preserved
- o to expand visitors' experiences by improving the interpretive program
- o to better locate existing visitor facilities to more unobtrusive areas
- o to better locate existing operational facilities to safer and more desirable sites.

This plan provides general guidelines for management and development of Bodie State Historic Park, in accordance with its classification and accepted declaration of purpose. While the plan is a comprehensive planning document, it must also be a flexible planning tool. Therefore, these rec-

ommendations must be used as guidelines, to be re-evaluated at the time of implementation.

Goals and Objectives

1. Identify the cultural and natural resources of the park.
2. Identify existing and future problems, and provide solutions.
3. Identify lands outside the existing park boundary which are necessary and appropriate additions to the park.
4. Determine land uses and visitor activities which are compatible with the purpose of the park and the surrounding area.
5. Determine the potential environmental and cultural impacts of these land uses and visitor activities.
6. Establish policies for maintenance and operation, protection and preservation, and interpretation of these resources.
7. Establish guidelines for the sequence of park development.
8. Provide an information document for the public, the legislature, park personnel, and other government agencies.
9. Provide an environment along the main access and bypass routes, including the routes themselves, that is compatible with the ghost town experience.



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Location

Bodie State Historic Park consists of some 130 hectares (324 acres) of land, embracing the historic townsite of Bodie in Mono County, east of the Sierra Nevada. The deserted mining town lies in a basin, at an elevation of about 2,950 meters (8,500 feet). It is located in the extreme northern part of the Desert and Desert Mountains Landscape Provinces, at an elevation considerably above the average for those provinces. The immediate setting is that of the dry Basin ranges, lying east of the Sierra Nevada.

Bodie is situated about nineteen kilometers (twelve miles by direct line) southeast of the town of Bridgeport, which is the county seat of Mono County, and is located on Highway 395. Clearwater Canyon Road branches east from Highway 395, about eleven kilometers (seven miles) south of Bridgeport, and extends generally eastward another twenty-one kilometers (thirteen miles) to reach Bodie. The Geiger Grade Road extends almost due east from near Bridgeport. The Cottonwood Creek Road branches north from Highway 167 near the north shore of Mono Lake, due south of Bodie. Another road runs northeast through Aurora from Bodie, toward Hawthorne, Nevada.

There are no other units of the State Park System in the vicinity of Bodie. The nearest is Grover Hot Springs State Park, which is about 140 kilometers (eighty-seven miles) away, in Alpine County; the next closest units are those at Lake Tahoe. Other units dealing with gold mining in other areas of the state include Marshall Gold Discovery, Empire Mine, Columbia, and Malakoff Diggins State Historic Parks. These are all located west of the Sierras.

Statutory Purpose

Bodie State Historic Park was classified as such in 1962, in accordance with the California Public Resources Code (Section 5001.5(e)). Historic units are defined therein as "areas established primarily to preserve objects of historical and scientific interest, and places commemorating important persons or historic events."

The national historic significance of Bodie is underscored by its status as a National Historic Landmark. Bodie is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the country's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation. Listing on the register makes Bodie eligible to apply for federal grants for historic preservation, and provides protection from federally assisted projects that may have adverse effects on the resources present. These benefits are guaranteed by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

In addition, Bodie is included on the Federal Historic American Buildings Survey (CAL-191B), and has been designated California Historic Landmark 341.



Study Area

The study area, as shown by Figure 2, page 7, consists of the townsite of Bodie (the present state historic park) and its immediate surroundings. A study of the adjacent properties is necessary to determine the impact of these properties on the park, and if necessary, to investigate the means by which proper management and protection of Bodie can be insured. It was found that other lands outside the defined study area should also be considered. These areas encompass lands next to the access roads, which may have an effect on these corridors.

The Study Area Map, page 7, also delineates Bodie Bowl. The town of Bodie is situated in a bowl-shaped valley. The bowl and parts of the adjacent mountains make up a unique geographical feature.

Existing Structures and Features

The historic structures and features map (see Fig. 3, page 9,) delineates the rich cultural resources within the state park ownership. This map identifies the major structures and features which make up Bodie State Historic Park. The map also identifies what historic structures are now used for administrative services. For a better understanding and definition of the cultural resources, reference should be made to the inventory entitled, "The Cultural Resources of Bodie State Historic Park," on file in the department's Central Files.

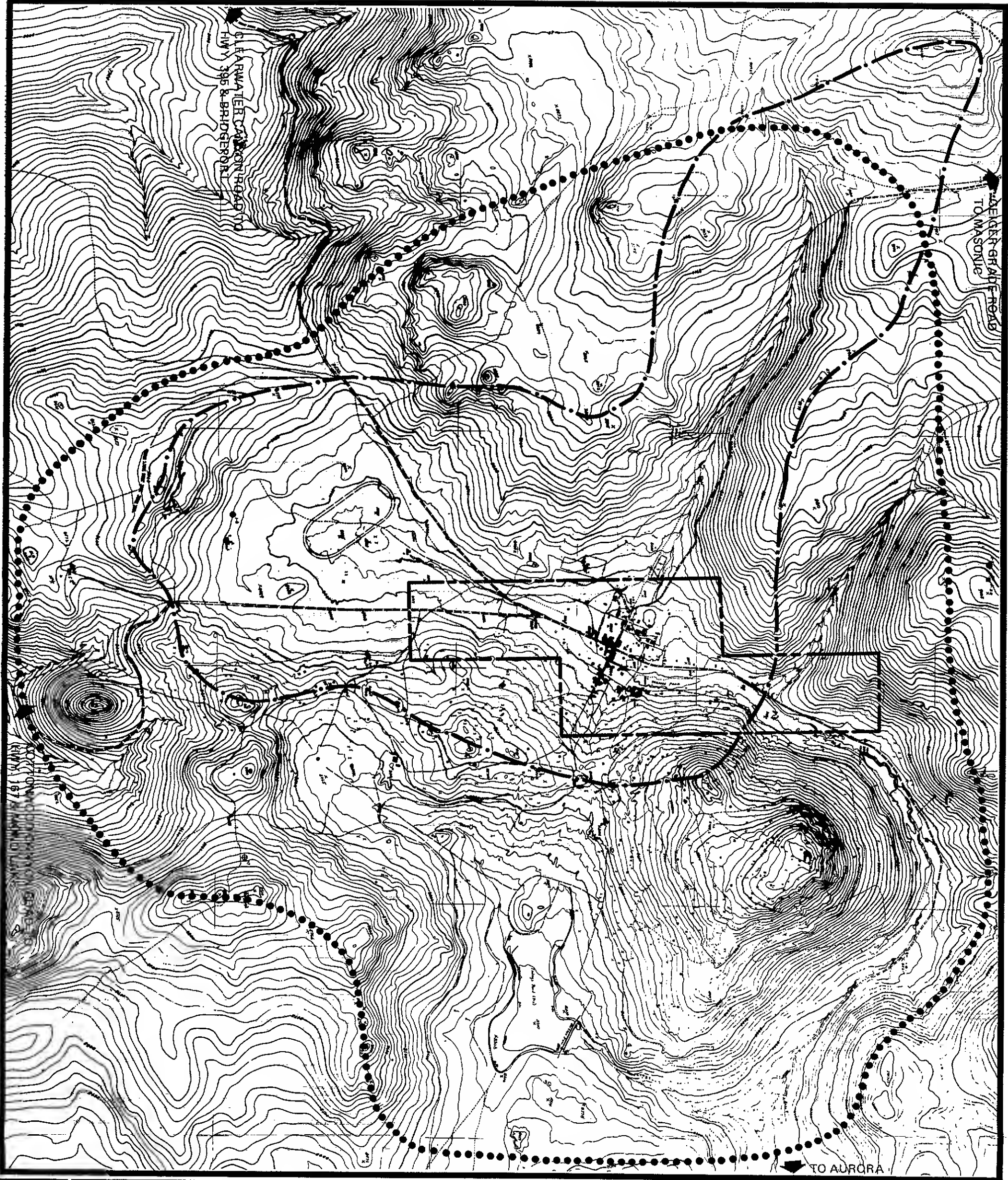


FIGURE 2
STUDY AREA
LEGEND

- STUDY AREA
- BODIE BOWL
- EXISTING STATE PARK BOUNDARY

Note: These boundaries are approximate locations.



BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK
STUDY AREA

RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

APPROVED _____ DATE _____

REVISIONS

DATE

DESIGNED

DRAWN

CHECKED

DRAWING NO.

SHEET NO.

OF

CLEARWATER CANYON ROAD
TO BRIDGEPORT & HWY. 395

HISTORIC WATER
STORAGE SITE

CEMETERY

COUNTY
HOSPITAL
SITE

FOUNDARY
SITE

WAREHOUSE
RUINS

BOARDING
HOUSE
SITE

BREWERY
SITE

MAIN STREET

MINER'S
UNION
HALL

RESIDENCE

METHODIST
CHURCH

LIVERY
STABLE

BOONE
STORE

SALOON

WHEATON
HOTEL

SCHOOL

GREEN STREET

ARRASTRA
SITE

MILL
MANAGERS
HOUSE

STANDARD
STAMP MILL

TAILINGS

SILVER
HILL MILL
SITE

SCATTERED
BUILDING
SITES

COTTONWOOD CANYON ROAD
TO MONO LAKE & LEE VINING

SCATTERED
BUILDING
SITES

TAILINGS
OAM

TAILINGS

SILVER
HILL

Join
Line

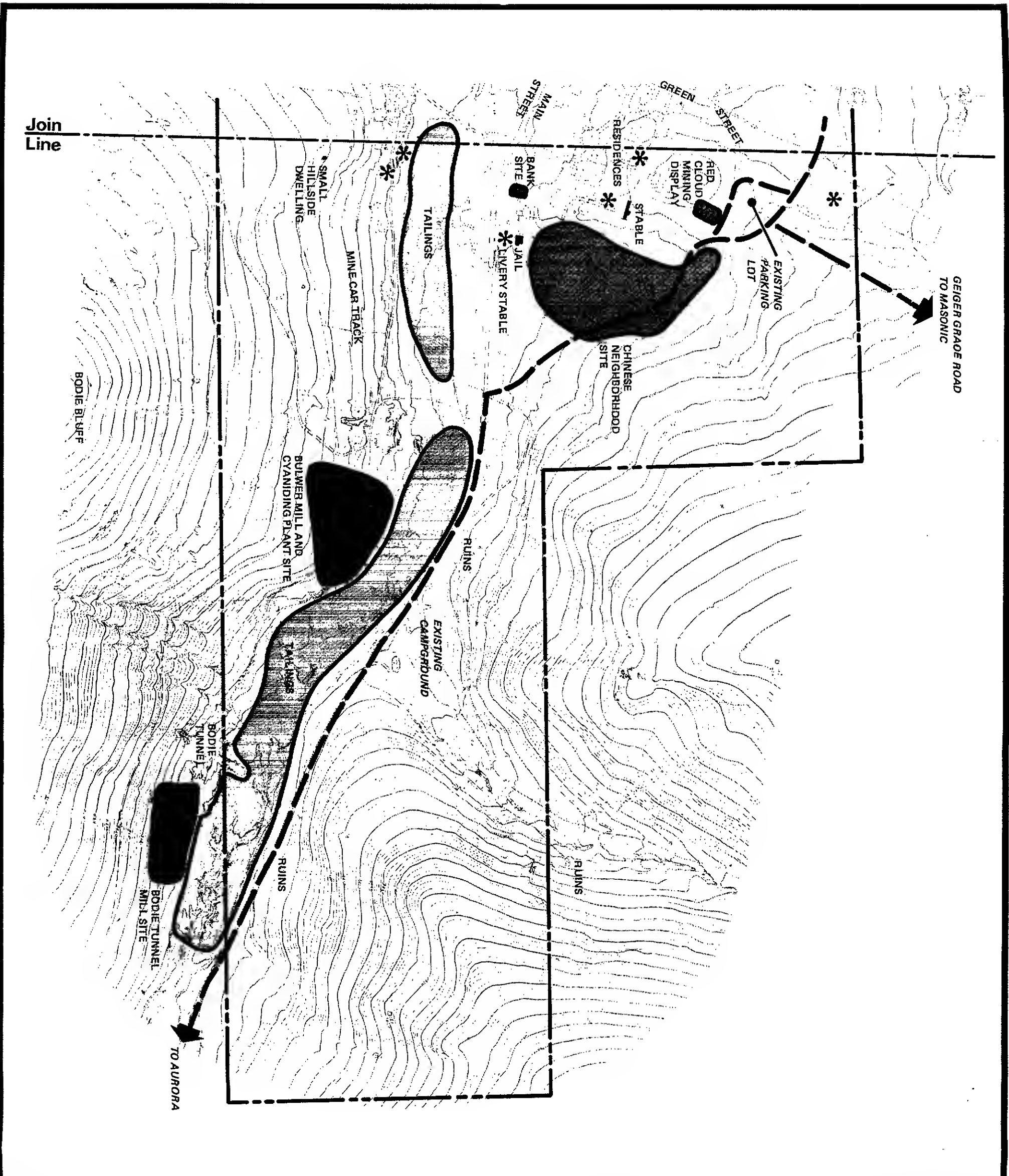


FIGURE 3
**HISTORIC
STRUCTURES
AND FEATURES
LEGEND**

- STATE PARK BOUNDARY (APPROXIMATE LOCATION)
- UNPAVED COUNTY ROADS
- ==== UNPAVED COUNTY ROADS, CLOSED TO THROUGH TRAFFIC
- HISTORIC STRUCTURES
- IDENTIFIED HISTORIC STRUCTURES
- * HISTORIC STRUCTURES USED FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES (PARK OFFICE, STAFF RESIDENCES, MAINTENANCE SHOP AND YARD, STORAGE, AND INFORMAL MUSEUM).
- MINE TAILING PONDS
- IDENTIFIED SITES
- NOTE:
NON-HISTORIC FEATURES IN ITALIC PRINT
- FOR FUTURE DESCRIPTION OF CULTURAL RESOURCES SEE THE 'RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN'.



SHEET NO. OF	DRAWING NO.	BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK HISTORIC STRUCTURES AND FEATURES	RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION		DESIGNED
			APPROVED _____	DATE _____	DRAWN
					CHECKED

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

A program of public involvement was initiated to identify and analyze local and statewide citizen concerns. This program consisted of two evening meetings in Bridgeport, and one week-long workshop session in Bodie. In addition, three thousand questionnaires and pamphlets were distributed statewide. Radio and newspaper coverage generated a great deal of interest in participating in the public involvement program.

The response was excellent. The Bridgeport meetings were well attended by local residents, as well as by concerned individuals from as far away as San Diego. During the week-long workshop session, more than two thousand persons were contacted on a one-to-one basis. Written responses to the pamphlets were received from across the nation. The public involvement program reached a wide cross section of park users. An outline of the public involvement process, a sample of the questionnaire, and a summary of the responses are included in the Appendix, page 81.



Public Meeting
and Workshop



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN



RESOURCE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION

Cultural Resources

Introduction

There is a rich body of cultural resources remaining at Bodie State Historic Park, representing both aboriginal and historic period use of the area. These resources include aboriginal campsites; almost 120 standing historic residential, commercial, and industrial buildings; and numerous historic archeological features such as structural ruins, earthworks, artifact deposits, and abandoned machinery. The following discussion of these resources and the historic processes they represent is abstracted from a "Historic Building Survey of Bodie SHP," by Buck Nelson, 1976; and a document entitled "The Cultural Resources of Bodie State Historic Park, 1977." Copies of both documents may be found in DPR Central Records. A detailed (1 inch = 100 feet) cultural resource map of the unit is on file with the Resource Preservation and Interpretation Division.

Prehistoric Resources

Although the primary cultural resources of Bodie SHP reflect historic activities that took place after 1850, prehistoric occupation of the area by Native Americans is represented by several archeological sites. To date, four definable obsidian artifact concentrations have been recorded within the unit boundaries. Three of these are located near the center of town and the existing parking lot. These may well be separate manifestations of a single large habitation site that covered most of the rise on which many of Bodie's remaining historic buildings stand. Another aboriginal site occurs in the southern part of the unit, to the north of the South End Mill site. In addition, a very light scatter of obsidian flakes and tools is present in most other areas of the unit.

The time periods represented by these prehistoric archeological resources are not known. It is possible that the area was occupied as early as 10,000 years ago, although no evidence substantiating this has been recovered within the unit.

During ethnohistoric times, the Mono Paiute inhabited the area. These people spoke a language of the Utahtecan linguistic phylum, and carried on a hunting-gathering existence in the Great Basin Culture Area tradition. The prehistoric sites in Bodie may represent temporary use areas of the Mono Paiute before the town came to exist. Ethnographic studies indicate that these people wintered in lower valleys, using higher elevations such as the Bodie area in warmer weather.

A more in-depth understanding of the way of life of Native Americans who occupied the Bodie region before arrival of the miners will require considerable additional ethnographic and archeological research.

Historic Resources

From the earliest days of the gold rush, few areas of California escaped exploration by argonauts. By the 1850s, prospectors had drifted into the rugged, semi-arid regions south of the Mother Lode and on the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada. In 1859, W. S. Body and a group of prospectors discovered gold-bearing placer deposits in a natural basin thirty miles northeast of Mono Lake. On their return from a supply trip to Monoville that winter, Body and his partner, E. S. Taylor, were caught in a snowstorm. Body died of exposure; it was not until the spring thaw that his corpse was found. The small group of miners working claims in the basin named the mining district in honor of Body when it was organized in July 1860. The current spelling of "Bodie" seems to have originated sometime shortly after this. Before 1862, the district's name was variously spelled "Bodey", "Bodie", and "Boda".

The town of Bodie grew very slowly at first. Prospecting efforts soon indicated that there were extensive hard-rock ore deposits on Bodie Bluff, as well as the placer gold first discovered in 1859. Gradually, mining experts, businessmen, and miners became aware of the mineral wealth located there. The Bodie Bluff Consolidated Mining Company, later known as the Empire Company, brought miners and their families to Bodie, and by 1864, real estate prices started to rise, permanent structures appeared in town, streets were marked out, and hopes were high. In



Above: Bodie in 1879

(Negatives on file, California State Department of Parks and Recreation)

Below: Present-day Bodie



1865, the Empire Company constructed a sixteen-stamp mill near the northern foot of Bodie Bluff. This was Bodie's first large-scale gold ore processing plant. (A stamp mill pulverizes ore by the repeated raising and dropping of heavy "stamps" into an iron mortar containing gold-bearing rock.) The failure of the company in 1867 closed the operation, however, and the mill remained idle until 1875. Except for a few relatively small mining ventures, the district remained inactive during this period.

The event that precipitated the great Bodie rush was the 1875 discovery of a very rich vein of gold ore at the Bunker Hill Claim. The years 1877 through 1881 were among the most active and productive for the Bodie District. The decline in prospects of many Nevada mining camps provided Bodie with a good supply of skilled miners and managers, but it also brought gamblers and other mining camp followers. With the spring thaw of 1878, building surged ahead furiously. By May 1878, Bodie had well over six hundred structures, and Main Street was lined with businesses for a full mile. If the census figures for 1880 can be trusted, Bodie's inhabitants numbered 6,000. Local newspapers and some historians have claimed the population was actually as high as 10,000.

The development of high-volume ore processing machinery was critical to the large-scale gold mining on which Bodie's boom was based. Before the investment of large amounts of capital in commercially produced milling machinery, simple mills known as "arrastras" (from the Spanish "arrastrar"; to drag) were constructed with locally available materials, to grind the ore and free the gold. Generally, these consisted of flat-bottomed circular depressions paved with stone. Other stones, attached to rotating cross members, were dragged over this pavement, grinding the ore between the two surfaces. Arrastras could be operated using horses, people, or water power to turn the cross piece.

Artifacts consisting of both the lower (bed) stones and upper (drag) stones have been located in one area of the unit, indicating the presence of such a mill. Additional stones and a depression mark the location of a second arrastra, just east of the unit boundary. Early Bodie miners also used

water-powered arrastras, located on Rough Creek, several miles northwest of the present unit boundary.

These features constitute an important cultural resource; they represent one of the earliest of a long series of technical innovations that permitted the increasingly efficient exploitation of hard-rock gold. Arrastras were used fairly extensively during Bodie's early development, and later for very small operations. As such, the remaining examples will be important to any attempts to interpret the development of mining and milling technology.

The further evolution of Bodie's mining industry is evidenced by the ruins of the stamp mills that sprang up during the boom years of 1877 through 1881. During this interval, at least ten mills began operating in the district. Most of these were powered by steam. Historic archeological resources in the form of building foundations, retaining walls, machine parts and mounts, and scatters of industrial artifacts are all that remain of most



installations constructed at that time. The extensive ruins of two of these (The Silver Hill or South End Mill, and the Bulwer Mill) have been identified within present historic park boundaries. The Standard Mill, the only intact ore-processing plant in the unit, stands on the site of one of the company's earlier installations. The first Standard Mill, which played a major role in development of the community, was constructed in 1877, and was destroyed by fire in 1899. The site of another early plant, the Bodie Tunnel Company Mill, is located along the northeast boundary of the unit. The ruins of several other mills are situated on the Bodie Bluff — Silver Hill ridge, to the east of the park.

Other industries necessary to support an active mining community are also represented in the cultural resources remaining at Bodie. These included the site of the Wells and Kirkpatrick Foundry, ruins of a number of warehouses, breweries, a water bottling plant, slaughterhouses, and a brick kiln, among others.

The legend of the "Bad Man from Bodie" that appears so prominently in historic literature was popularized sometime in 1878 or 1879, as violence and vice increased dramatically in town. Bodie camp followers contributed to the town's night life, recreation, and notoriety, by setting up saloons, gambling houses, dance halls, and brothels. These establishments were located primarily along King and Bonanza Streets, to the north and west of Bodie's more respectable residences and businesses.

In many other ways, however, Bodie closely resembled less notorious towns in California and the west. Fraternal organizations and their women's auxiliaries provided the community with an active social life. The Bodie Miners' Union Hall was an important community center. The Bodie Miners' Union was also an important force behind the demand for improved working conditions at the mines. At its peak, this union, with more than 1,000 members, was one of the strongest in California, and remained active until well into the 20th century. The miners' union hall still stands. The structure is now used as a museum.



Private Casino

Gambling was one of the most popular forms of entertainment. A race track was laid out in 1879 on the flat a quarter mile south of town, and was used regularly until 1900. Families liked to picnic after a race in the grove of aspen on the ridge south of the track. Traces of the Bodie race track are still visible from a distance. On a more sober side, Bodie's spiritual and intellectual needs were served by a Methodist and a Catholic church, as well as a public school. The Methodist church and the schoolhouse remain standing, on the north side of Green Street.

The residents of Bodie tried to create normal community lives for themselves, but the hardships of living in a mining camp often made this difficult. Firewood was a necessity of life; even after completion in 1881 of the Bodie Benton Railroad, which hauled firewood from Mono Lake, the price of this fuel remained high. Long, cold winters, poorly constructed houses, expensive fuel, pneumonia, Bodie's geographic isolation, and crime problems were among the adverse conditions that plagued the community. Perhaps these hardships of life brought the townspeople together, in that they had to put up with each others' faults for mere survival. This fraternal spirit did not, however, include racial minorities.

Mono Paiute Indians indigenous to the Mono basin earned a little money as wood cutters and casual laborers. Living on the outskirts of Bodie, they were not socially welcome in town. The Chinese, the single largest minority group in Bodie, were segregated to a neighborhood along King Street. The Chinese in Bodie ran laundries, peddled vegetables and fruit, and brought in and sold most of the wood in town. The Census of 1880 indicated that there were 357 Chinese in Bodie, although there were many others in the area's wood camps. Although there were several Chinese opium and gambling houses, most Chinese in Bodie made their living by means not directly related to drugs or gambling. The Chinese, like other workers at Bodie, were trying to survive by making a productive contribution to their community. Race prejudice, however, put many obstacles in their way. When the sale and use of opium was outlawed in 1881, there followed a dramatic, if ineffectual, anti-Chinese demonstration in Bodie. This action, coupled

with the first signs of economic slow-down, undoubtedly resulted in the decision of many Chinese to leave Bodie. In 1881 and 1882, there was a steady exodus of Chinese; by 1883, few Chinese remained in Bodie.

Other nationalities also played prominent roles in Bodie. In some ways, the community was a truly cosmopolitan place. Many, if not most, of its miners were Cornish, and a large part of its shopkeepers, craftsmen, and laborers were Italians, Germans, Jews, and Irish. The Mexican population was large enough to make a Cinco de Mayo celebration a major event, and many contests and activities of the Fourth of July festivities had Mexican origins. Black people were not much in evidence in Bodie, but at least one black individual figured prominently in the town's history; the boarding house manager who encouraged and financed the two miners who made the great Bunker Hill strike in 1875 was black.



Many buildings that remain standing in the unit were the residences and businesses of some of Bodie's leading citizens. Generally,

such structures were constructed somewhat more soundly than the homes of laborers and ethnic minorities, a factor that has contributed to their survival. Most of the smaller, flimsier homes and business places in Bodie's Chinatown, red light district, and outlying neighborhoods have disappeared, leaving only archeological evidence of their existence. A few of these less-imposing structures have survived, however. As such, they must be considered to be highly significant historic resources. These structures represent a way of life common to most of Bodie's inhabitants, but one that is under-represented in the remaining architectural resources.

In the same light, archeological resources representing residences and neighborhoods that have completely disappeared are of critical importance. The everyday work, concerns, problems, and pleasures of the miners and mill workers, Native Americans, Chinese, Mexicans, and other minorities typically are poorly reflected in the historic literature. Thus, insight into the social and economic statuses and roles of these peoples must be derived from sources other than the written record. The remaining archeological resources, if properly preserved and investigated, will supply concrete data about these peoples' living and working conditions, their roles as workers and consumers, their concepts of fun and beauty, and in general, their relationships to the larger historic and economic processes of which they were part.

Gold (and, one might add, silver) was the major contributing factor in both the growth and decline of Bodie. In the course of its mining history, Bodie produced gold and silver valued at more than \$34 million. Even though some mines continued to do well, the first indications of a long-term economic decline had become apparent by December 1882, when several of the smaller mines shut down. Miners were out of work; as a result, local businessmen and merchants suffered greatly. The exodus from Bodie picked up its pace as gold strikes in Arizona and Idaho drew off the unemployed Bodie miners. By 1890, only two mines were operating.

Despite the sharp economic decline, the people of Bodie were determined that the town would hang on as a mining camp. In July 1892, a fire that started in a restaurant kitchen destroyed more than sixty structures

in the town. Within weeks, the people had rebounded, and many of the buildings were replaced.

Several factors contributed to this recovery; probably the most important was development of the cyanide process for extracting gold from ore. In 1895, in an early application of this newly developed extraction method, a cyanide plant was constructed. It began to process the low-grade ore and tailings that before had been too poor to be re-worked for profit.

Another boon to mining technology was the introduction of electrical power. By 1893, the first impulses of electricity were carried from the Standard Consolidated Mining Company's power plant on Green Creek to the company's mill in Bodie. This new source of power enabled the mines to cut costs sharply, and to operate more efficiently. Transmission of power from the generator to Bodie, about twelve and one-half miles, is reputed to be one of the earliest instances of successful long-distance electrical transmission on record.

In 1899, the first Standard Mill burned to the ground, but within a year, a new stamp mill, the only one that remains standing in Bodie State Historic Park today, had replaced it. The Standard Mill dominates the Bodie community at present. A complex of buildings, including the mill itself, a machine shop, assay office, business office, blacksmith shop, and the mill manager's home, stands on the hillside above and immediately east of the center of town. This resource is of particular significance, because it still contains most of the machinery necessary to operate, including huge electric motors that replaced the earlier steam engine as a source of power.

A major corporate consolidation took place in 1906. The Standard, Syndicate, Tioga, Bulwer, Bodie Tunnel, and Bechtel mines were operated by one company. By 1912, the operation was working 35 different veins. J. S. Cain, (who had figured prominently in Bodie's economic history) and several partners bought the Standard Mine in 1915. In that year, the old Syndicate Mill (formerly the Empire Mill) closed down for good. Presently, only the foundations of the





mill building, tailings dump, and associated archeological features remain to mark the location of this operation, which was Bodie's first large-scale ore processing plant. It is located north of and outside the historic park boundary.

The First World War and the years following were hard ones for Bodie. From 1910 to 1920, the population dropped from about 500 to less than 100. During the last year of the war, the rails and rolling stock of the Mono Lake Railway and Lumber Company (formerly the Bodie and Benton Railway) were dismantled and sold for scrap. After the war, almost all mining activity was confined to processing of the poor-quality ore dumped from previous operations. When construction of an improved highway in the 1920s made Bodie accessible to motorists, it had earned a reputation of being a ghost town. Many tourists were shown the town by J. S. Cain, and it is said that he always assured them that one day Bodie would make a comeback, as queen of the mining camps.

In 1929, the Alaska-based Tredwell Yukon Company and the Homestake Mining Company merged their efforts in a joint venture, to process large quantities of discarded ore, and to mine low-grade quartz.

However, the onset of the great depression made this operation unfeasible, and it was shut down in 1932. In June of that year, the worst fire in the town's history devastated nearly ninety percent of the existing structures. Such landmarks as the Occidental Hotel, the Bodie Bank, the Post Office, and the U. S. Hotel were totally destroyed. There was no rebuilding after this fire. Jim Cain's home was spared by the blaze, but that is about all that he had left in Bodie. In 1935, he leased his mining property to the Roseklip Mines Company, and moved to San Francisco.

The Roseklip operation carried on where the Treadwell-Homestake efforts had left off. Wartime restrictions on gold mining closed down this enterprise in 1942. It went back into operation in 1946, but with scant success. Not long after this, its plant burned down, and the whole project was almost entirely abandoned.

By the late 1940s, Bodie had become a popular "ghost town," more important for its past than for its potential as a mining camp. To protect its existing structures for the enjoyment and enlightenment of future generations, Bodie was made a state historic park in 1962.

Natural and Scenic Values

Topography

The Bodie landscape typifies the Desert and Desert Mountain Landscape Provinces. The Bodie community lies in a small hour-glass-shaped valley, through which Bodie Creek drains from the southwest to the northeast. A ridge formed by Bodie Bluff on the north and Silver Hill and Sugar Loaf Peak on the south forms the eastern side of the valley. This ridge is the major ore-bearing zone of the district. The hills and ridges to the east are of volcanic origin, and geologically are part of the Potato Peak Formation. Bodie Bluff, which reaches almost 2,745 meters (9,000 feet) above sea level, dominates the townsite on the northeast. Bodie Creek, which carries only a small flow during most times of the year, drains to the north around Bodie Bluff, then turns sharply to the south and east.

The Bodie townsite proper is located in the smaller northern segment of the constricted valley. Main Street runs through the lower part of the drainage, generally paralleling the stream channel. The location of this channel has been altered radically during the historic period by deposition of hundreds of tons of mill tailings. Along the drainage in the area north of the townsite, it is possible to observe at least three meters (ten feet) of sediment deposited above the original stream bed. Green Street transects Main Street in a generally east-west direction, and winds up the hillside onto the saddle between Bodie Bluff and Silver Hill. At present, these are the most clearly defined streets in town. There are several small springs along the flanks of the hills west of the valley.

The southern part of the valley forms a wide, fairly flat bowl, the southern rim of which is formed by another volcanic ridge (Murphy Springs Tuff Breccia). Historically, a racetrack and a number of yet-unidentified structures were located in this southern bowl. The alluvial sediment in this bowl supports somewhat more grass and sagebrush than do the surrounding hillsides. Although no soil survey of the area has been completed, it can be stated that the soils in the Bodie region are relatively young, and are low in organic content. They are unsuitable for intensive agriculture.

Plants and Animals

The natural vegetation of the Bodie townsite, and of the mountains surrounding it for a considerable distance, consists of various members of the Sagebrush Scrub biotic community. Dominant plants are Sagebrushes, Rabbitbrushes, and Bitterbrushes; one or more species of Buckwheat, Giant Wild Rye, and several smaller species of grass; and many plants with showy blossoms in season, including Lupine, Phlox, and Columbine. Trees are almost entirely absent; in a few places, Aspen occur. There are small Willows along the watercourses in a few locations. Since this vegetative complex is not represented anywhere else in the State Park System, the larger the area that is ultimately included in Bodie State Historic Park, the better will be the ecological sample.

The animals now common at Bodie are mostly small, and are not ordinarily seen by average visitors. Rodents and their relatives are well represented in the fauna. Coyote are here. Deer may occasionally be seen. Native antelope have been absent for many years, although the animals were recently re-introduced into the vicinity, and might possibly be observed. Bird life is considerably less conspicuous than in a tree-clad country; the sage grouse and its strutting grounds are in the area. Although no rare or endangered species of either plant or animal life are known to occur in this vicinity, the protection of an adequate example of the biotic community and ecological region is a significant contribution to the State Park System.



Aspens Overlooking the Townsite

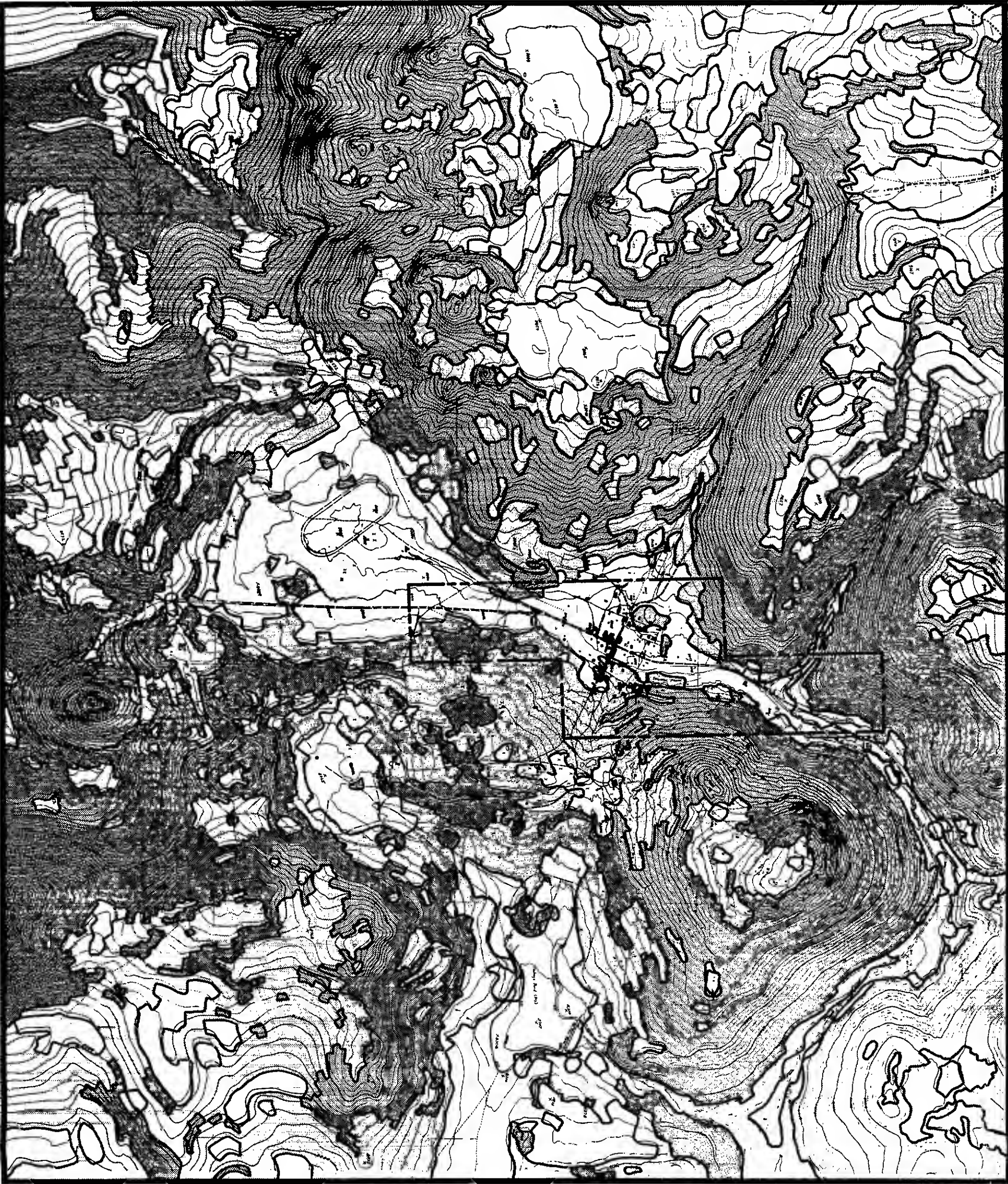


FIGURE 4

SLOPE
LEGEND

- 0-10%, GENTLE SLOPE
- 10-20%, MODERATE SLOPE
- 20%+, STEEP SLOPE



BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK
SLOPE

RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

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GEOLOGY & SEISMIC HAZARDS LEGEND

SEISMIC HAZARDS

FAULTS

- VISIBLE FAULTS
- APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF FAULTS
- CONCEALED FAULTS
- U UPTHROWN SIDE
- D DOWNTOWN SIDE

NOTE:
Faults shown are based on the best available data and may not show all potentially active faults.
This map has been drawn as accurately as possible but exact locations must be field checked.

GEOLOGY

SURFICIAL DEPOSITS

- ALLUVIUM: POORLY TO MODERATELY SORTED AND BEDDED STREAM AND LACUSTRINE GRAVEL, SAND AND SILT AND MINOR THIN VOLCANIC ASH LAYERS.
- TALLS AND SLOREWASH: POORLY SORTED MISCELLANEOUS MIXTURE OF SOIL AND ROCK FRAGMENTS MANTLING STEEP TO GENTLE SLOPES.

VOLCANIC ROCKS

- ROCKS OF POTATO PEAK FORMATION, DACITE: MEDIUM TO FINE GRAINED PORPHYRITIC HORNBLENDE DACITE WHICH OCCURS AS FLOWS THAT REACH UP TO SEVERAL TENS OF FEET THICK.
- ROCKS OF POTATO PEAK FORMATION, TUFF BRECCIA: MASSIVE, LOCALLY MODERATELY INDURATED AND LAYERED TUFF BRECCIA.
- ROCKS OF MURPHY SPRING DACITE: MEDIUM-GRAY, COARSE GRAINED, PORPHYRITIC DACITE WHICH OCCURS AS FLOWS, DIKES, AND PLUGS.
- ROCKS OF MURPHY SPRING TUFF BRECCIA: CRUDELY LAYERED, MASSIVE TUFF BRECCIA, CONSISTING LARGELY OF DACITIC LAVA WITH LOCAL ACCUMULATIONS OF RHYOLITIC DEBRIS.
- ROCKS OF THE SILVER HILL VOLCANIC SERIES, DACITE: LIGHT TO DARK-GRAY AND BROWNISH-GRAY PORPHYRITIC DACITE WHICH OCCURS AS FLOWS AND PLUGS.
- ROCKS OF THE SILVER HILL VOLCANIC SERIES, RHYODACITE: LIGHT-GRAY AND PORPHYRITIC RHYODACITE WHICH OCCURS PRINCIPALLY AS PLUGS.
- ROCKS OF THE SILVER HILL VOLCANIC SERIES, TUFF BRECCIA: CRUDELY LAYERED, MASSIVE, PALE-GRAY TO BUFF, LOCALLY HIGHLY INCURATED TUFF BRECCIA.

UN - MAPPED

ZONE

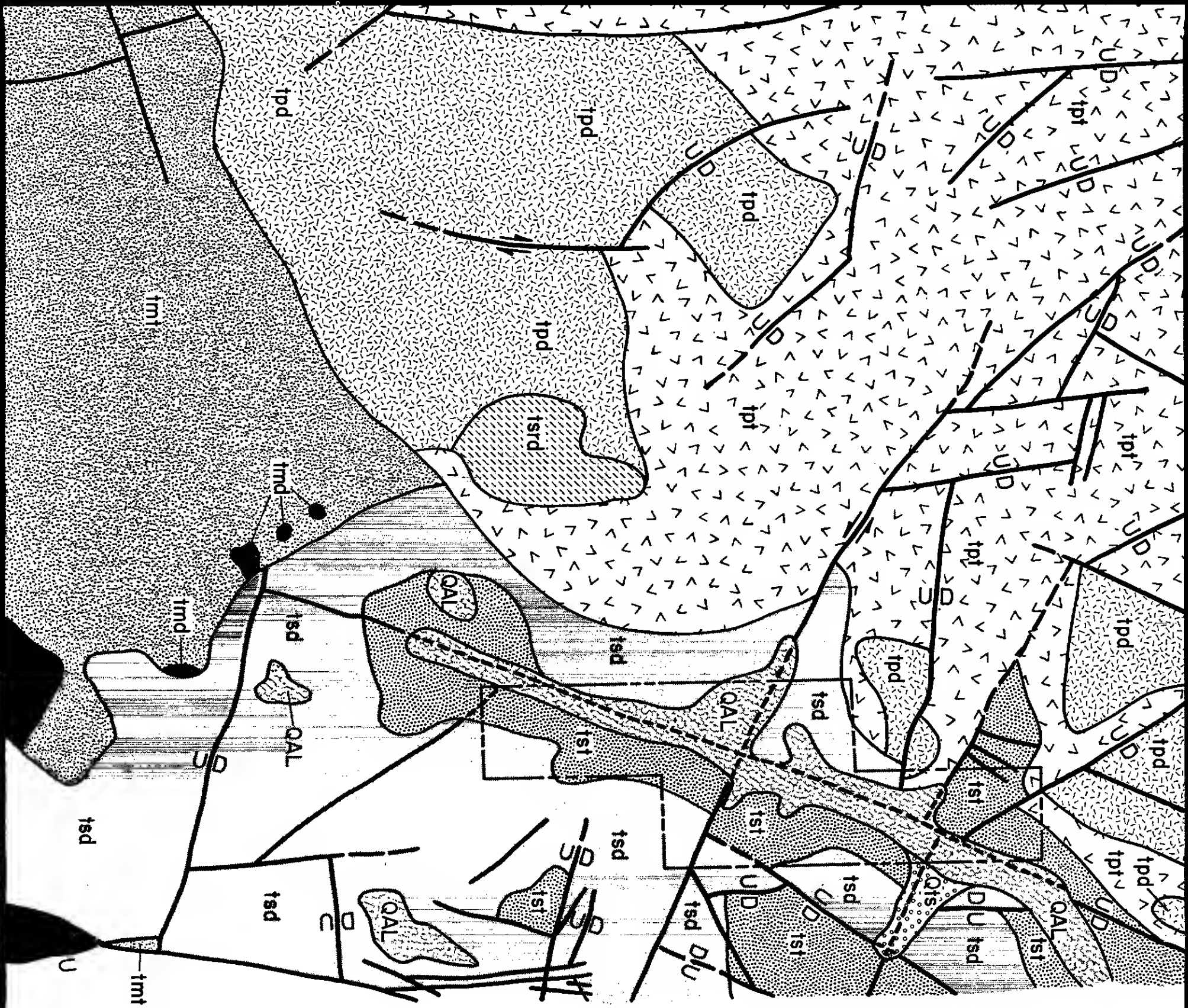


FIGURE 5



BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK
GEOLOGY & SEISMIC
HAZARDS

RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
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OF

Geology and Seismic Hazards

The geologic history and characteristics of the area in which Bodie is located form the basis for the existence of the place as a human community, and as a unit of the State Park System. Geologic forces combined here, over a span of ancient and recent geologic time, to create the deposits of gold and other valuable minerals on which the mining town of Bodie was founded.

The primary geologic formations covering the area in which Bodie is located consist of Tertiary (Miocene) dacitic and andesitic lavas, tuff, and breccias. The potassium-argon dating method suggests that these volcanic materials were deposited about eight to thirteen million years before the present (B.P.).

Several faults run through the historic park area. One of these extends northeast-southwest along the Bodie Creek drainage, and is intersected by others which cut the gold-bearing Bodie Bluff-Silver Hill ridge to the east. This faulted zone constitutes the major ore-bearing part of the district. In the zone are small intrusive andesitic bodies of Miocene age. Bodie Bluff itself appears to represent a major volcanic vent. Gold and silver-bearing quartz veins cut these andesitic intrusives. The ages of the volcanic host rocks range from nine point four to eight point six million years B.P. The gold and silver-bearing material is apparently slightly younger than the host rock; several ore-bearing veins yielded potassium-argon dates of seven point two to eight million years B.P. (Kleinhampl, et al, 1975).

Most of the Bodie Creek drainage and the surrounding hills are overlain by unconsolidated sediment of the Pleistocene-Holocene age. This material, most of which has been deposited in the last three million years, probably includes windblown sand and volcanic ash, alluvial deposits, and colluvial talus. The fine volcanic sediment may be derived from eruptions of the Mono Craters and other localities to the south; explosive volcanism occurred in the area as recently as several thousand years ago (Kleinhampl, et al, 1975).

It does not appear that the Bodie region was glaciated, at least during the most recent (Wisconsin) glacial maximum (Bailey, 1966:15B). There are indications however,

that ice-covered areas existed about thirty-two kilometers (twenty miles) to the west of Bodie during this interval, a situation that probably would have created periglacial conditions in such areas of high elevation. During the Wisconsin period, it seems probable that the plant and animal communities in the area would have varied considerably from those present today.

Geological and archeological evidence suggests that the climate of the Great Basin Province has not remained constant during the post-glacial (Holocene) period, which includes approximately the last 10,000 years. Paleoclimatic interpretations present a gradual shift from a cool, subhumid era (Anathermal) to an arid period (Altithermal) that occurred about 7,000 to 8,000 years ago, over much of the Great Basin. This relatively dry (Altithermal) period was followed by a slightly cooler, more humid climatic pattern (Medithermal), about 3000-4000 B.P. This shift seemingly corresponds with a re-birth of lakes and small mountain glaciers, sometimes referred to as the Neoglacial. There is archeological evidence from northern Utah that this relatively warm, humid condition persisted until about 600 years ago in that region, and that the climate there has been becoming more arid since that time (Harper and Aldey, 1972; Fagan, 1974; Davis and Elston, 1972).

While none of these studies are in direct reference to the Bodie region, and there is undoubtedly considerable local variation in the pattern outlined above, it is probable that Bodie's climate has gone through similar fluctuations in the last 10,000 years. Because these climatic deviations and accompanying changes in the floral and faunal communities constituted the environments to which the human inhabitants of the Great Basin were required to adapt, an understanding of these variations is of extreme importance to a comprehensive grasp of the history of Bodie State Historic Park.

Climate

Bodie lies in the extreme western edge of the Great Basin, and at a rather high elevation. Summer weather is warm; the winters are extremely severe. Snow depths are not as great as those in the Sierra Nevada, because the Bodie region is in the precipitation shadow of the higher range. Winter storms are often accompanied by high winds, however, that sometimes produce snow drifts that reach the eaves of the buildings. Blowing snow can entirely obscure vision, a condition referred to as a "whiteout." It was apparently in a whiteout that W. S. Body, for whom the town is named, lost his life. Winter temperatures are extremely low. Structures intended for year-round use at Bodie need to withstand moderate snow loads, and to be heavily insulated and protected against wind and cold.

Ecological Features

Bodie is the only unit of the State Park System located in the very high desert region of the western Great Basin. As such, it differs ecologically from both the lower desert units farther south, and those of comparable elevation in the Sierra Nevada. Except for some very limited areas where the water supply is greater, the region around Bodie is characterized by the Desert Scrub vegetative type. The characteristics of this plant association have been modified somewhat by long-continued grazing, although not severely altered. Within and close to the townsite itself, the natural characteristics have been heavily modified by human use. While Bodie State Historic Park was not established to preserve natural values per se, those values are of considerable significance here. The wild and remote aspect of this area is critical to retention of the ghost town atmosphere of the town of Bodie.





Scenic Values

Bodie is located in a spectacularly scenic part of California. While the townsite itself, nestled in its desert basin and closely surrounded by hills covered with mine tailings, might be characterized as stark, the same does not apply to the more distant views that reveal themselves from even slightly higher elevations along the rim of the basin, and from all the routes entering and leaving Bodie itself. No visitor to Bodie can escape being confronted with breathtaking views of high desert and mountain scenes. These views embrace the eastern wall of the Sierra Nevada, the broad expanse of Mono Lake with its islands and nearby volcanic cones, and the broad array of peaks in the basin ranges, some of them as much as 3350 meters (11,000 feet) in elevation. In the far distance, one may see the White Mountains, with one peak more than 4340 meters (14,250 feet) in height. The experience of viewing these tremendous vistas is inevitably a very important part of any visit to Bodie.

The natural environment along this access road is a critical part of the ghost town experience. The primitive natural condition and isolation that were a basic part of the history of Bodie, and that contributed to its transformation into a ghost town, are valuable

scenic resources. The area along the access road, therefore, shall be maintained in its natural state, so visitors can understand the conditions Bodie townpeople had to endure, and to feel the ghost town experience on the way into the unit.

All historic structures, and the scars from extensive mining operations, are important scenic values that this unit of the State Park System was established to protect and perpetuate. Installations not representative of the historic period are, by definition, undesirable intrusions on both the historic scene and the natural environment. One of the most serious of these intrusions is the modern powerline that brings needed electricity to the townsite.

There was a powerline constructed into Bodie during the historic period; some of these older poles are still in place. These were superseded by the existing line, which is visually much out of place in the townsite, and detracts strongly from the scenic and historic values of the unit. Several instances of road construction and land-clearing, accomplished since the unit was acquired by the Department of Parks and Recreation, are equally out of place, and detract greatly from the experience of the historic scene. These intrusions on the Bodie landscape include the existing parking lot and its access roads.

Recreational Values

The country around Bodie lends itself admirably to the recreational pursuit of historical interests, and to the esthetic enjoyment of an unobscured high desert environment. Desert hiking can be enjoyed tremendously; the rewards are primarily the expansive views available from ridges and peaks, and the historical, geological, and ecological stories that unfold. The scenic values of the area hold much potential for landscape artists and photographers. Some mountain slopes in the region could be used for numerous summer and winter recreational activities. At present, however, these recreational resources are not used extensively, because they are too remote from major population centers.

There is now a small campground at Bodie State Historic Park. This is located in Milk Ranch Canyon, about 610 meters (2,000 feet) north of the central cluster of remaining buildings. The campground is within the areas originally encompassed by the settlement and the townsite boundaries. Its closeness to important cultural resources has resulted in extensive vandalism of at least one historic structure in recent years.

There are at least sixteen other campgrounds (eight U. S. Forest Service and eight private campgrounds) within a twenty-mile radius of Bodie State Historic Park, which provide visitors with additional camping alternatives.

Resource Deficiencies

One of the greatest resource deficiencies at Bodie State Historic Park is the current small size of the unit. As now defined, the Department of Parks and Recreation owns property containing only the central core of the Bodie community, leaving integral components of that historic settlement outside departmental jurisdiction. Highly significant historic resources not now situated within the unit include the Bodie-Benton Railroad station and right of way, the Bodie Cemetery, the racetrack, the toll house, Gray's Mill (still standing, but heavily vandalized in the spring of 1977), arrastra sites on Rough Creek, and the mine hoisting works, mill sites, and other industrial and residential structures and features located on and near the Bodie Bluff-Silver Hill Ridge, among others. In addition to

excluding significant cultural resources, the small size of the unit provides no buffer zone to protect the cultural, natural, or scenic values within existing boundaries. A greater cross-section of the natural, scenic, and cultural values of this region, which are unique within the State Park System, will be provided if the size of the unit is increased. Another very critical disadvantage of the present small unit area is that optimal locations for permanent administrative and public service facilities are not available.

The lack of adequate administrative facilities and stabilization funds has created a deficiency of historic resources for the unit's visitors. A number of the largest and most stable structures are currently inaccessible to the public because they are used for staff housing, maintenance shops and storage, or are in such poor condition that they pose safety hazards.

Deficiencies in the department's resource management program are noteworthy. Adequate resource preservation and management will require considerably more extensive stabilization, restoration, interpretation, and curatorial programs than are now being implemented. At present, the unit lacks an interpretive visitor center. This is essential, if visitors are to be given adequate orientation to the cultural and natural history of the unit and the surrounding region.

Operational deficiencies include: (1) small staff size; (2) inadequate access and parking facilities; (3) substandard or insufficient staff housing, administrative, storage, and interpretive structures; and (4) inadequate visitor control mechanisms.



DECLARATION OF PURPOSE

On April 19, 1963, the State Park Commission and the Chief of the Division of Beaches and Parks approved the following Declaration of Purpose:

"The purpose of Bodie State Historic Park is to make available to the people forever the opportunity to appreciate and enjoy the ghost mining town of Bodie in its historic and natural setting. The function of the Division of Beaches and Parks at Bodie is to preserve and protect the historic structures and features in a manner that retains the 'ghost town' atmosphere; to provide appropriate interpretive services; and to furnish such other facilities and public services consistent with the purpose of the historic park, as may be necessary for the full enjoyment of the park by people."

The primary themes for this unit are: (1) the discovery and early development of Bodie; (2) the technological evolution of the mining and milling industries that form Bodie's economic base; (3) the everyday lives of Bodie's many distinct ethnic and social groups — how they lived, worked, and played; (4) the process of urban growth and decline that created the Bodie of today; and (5) the philosophy and methods by which the department is preserving Bodie for the future.



The California History Plan (Department of Parks and Recreation, 1973) outlines a very general thematic breakdown of California history. History plan themes represented at Bodie State Historic Park include Exploration and Settlement, Post-Gold Rush Mining Activities, Economic and Material Growth, Commerce/Industry, Population Growth and Patterns, Engineering, 19th Century Architecture, Social History, Lifestyles, Ethnic Groups, and National Factors. These general themes are reflected in the primary themes outlined above.

Specific aspects of these broad themes that might be interpreted at the unit include: the story of W. S. Bodie; the status and role of the Chinese, Native Americans, and other ethnic peoples in Bodie's economic and social life; living and working conditions that commonly prevailed in Bodie's mines and mills; the history of local commerce and industry other than mining; goods and services available to Bodie residents; the geologic character and history of the gold district; and the relationship of local social and economic

development to more general regional, national, and international trends. The long-term program of resource management, preservation, interpretation, and stabilization which is in process at Bodie State Historic Park is a theme of considerable importance.

Themes that are secondary to the major interpretive emphasis at Bodie, but should be interpreted, include prehistoric Native American occupation of the region, the plants and animals of Bodie, and the effects of human activities on the natural environment.

The themes outlined above encompass a flow of history extending from the earliest occupation of the area by Native Americans to establishment of the unit as a state historic park in 1962. The flow of history at Bodie includes this late date because the townsite was never truly abandoned; mining and testing activities continue even on Bodie Bluff. The complete flow of history must be considered, so the development of the changing human relationship to the natural environment at Bodie may be adequately interpreted. (Resource Management Directive No. 46).

The prime period to be demonstrated by the remaining buildings and other visible cultural resources at Bodie will be different from that to be emphasized by further interpretive efforts and devices. For the town itself, the period to be depicted is the time after Bodie was abandoned as an active mining community, and had taken on a "ghost town" appearance. Thus, the townsite, through an active preservation policy of arrested decay, will be retained much as it appeared at the time it was acquired by the Division of Beaches and Parks.

The periods interpreted at a visitor center, or other interpretive devices installed in the future, may also focus on other aspects of Bodie's active history. The prime period of emphasis for new interpretive installations should be the Bodie boom, 1877 to 1881, with secondary emphasis placed on prehistoric occupation of the region, the early years of Bodie's discovery and development, and the later years of its decline.

The Zone of Primary Cultural Interest at Bodie State Historic Park includes all of the area within the present unit boundaries except the parcel which lies northwest of the existing Aurora Road and north of Milk

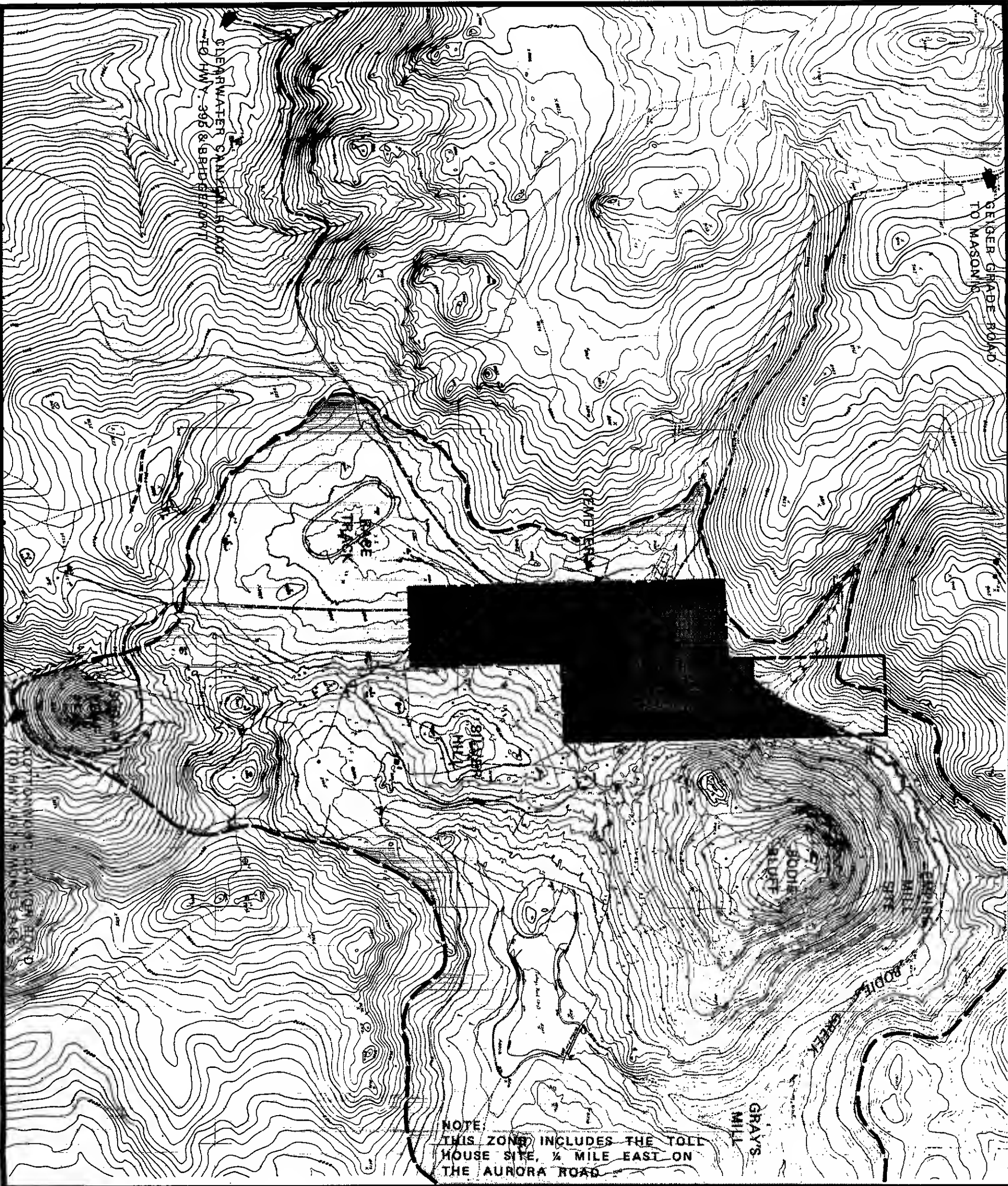


FIGURE 6

ZONES OF CULTURAL RESOURCE SENSITIVITY

LEGEND

- ZONE OF PRIMARY CULTURAL INTEREST
- ZONE OF HIGH CULTURAL RESOURCE SENSITIVITY

NOTE: ALL BOUNDARIES ARE APPROXIMATE ONLY.

SCALE

0 1000 2000 Feet

BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK

ZONES OF CULTURAL RESOURCE SENSITIVITY

DRAWING NO. _____ SHEET NO. _____ OF _____

RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

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		DRAWN
		CHECKED

Ranch Canyon. The northernmost boundary of the zone follows the southeastern side of Aurora Road, from the point at which the road crosses the existing unit boundary on the northeast to a point 488 meters (1600 feet) north of the intersection of Main and King Streets. From this point, the northern boundary of the zone runs due west to intersect the western unit boundary. The southern, western, and eastern limits of the zone are identical with existing unit boundaries.

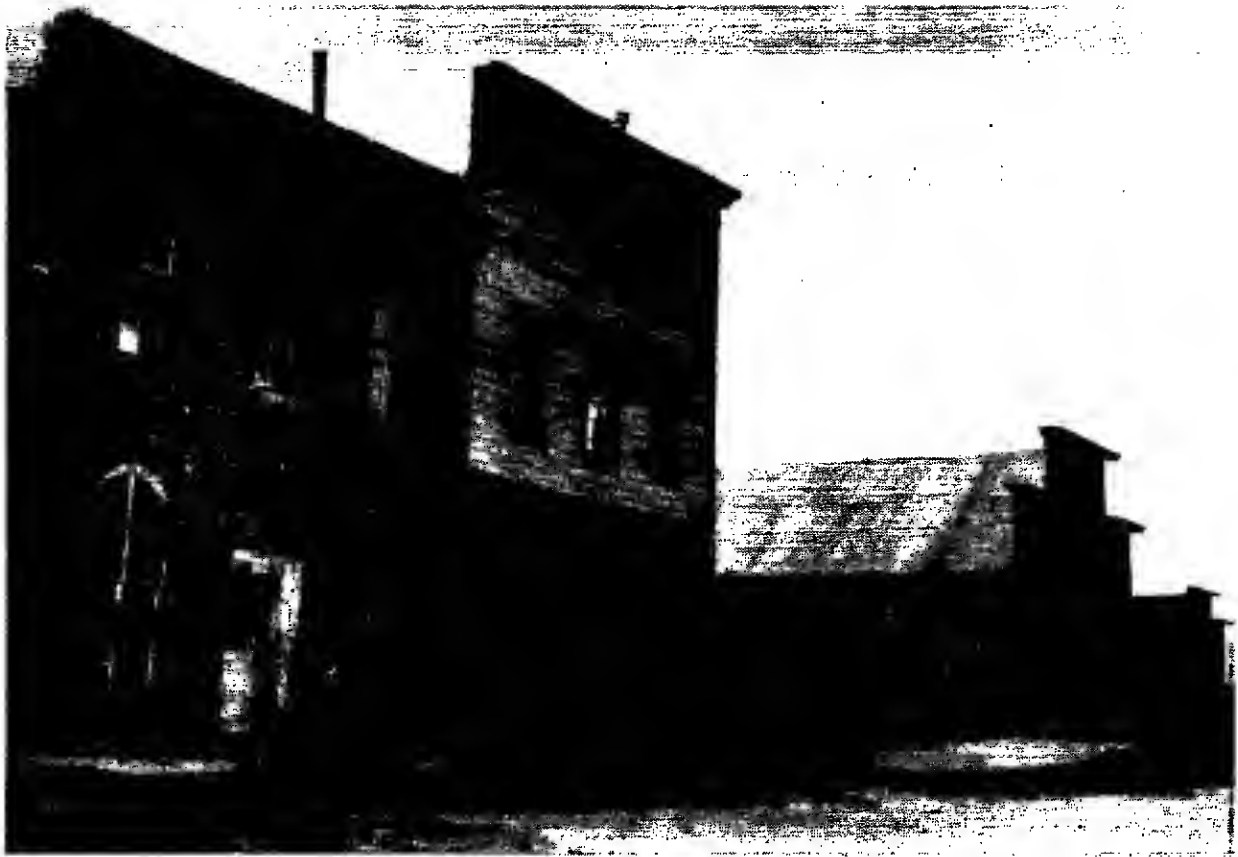
The Zone of Primary Cultural Interest has been thus defined to include most of the streets, roads, blocks, and lots that historically comprised the Bodie townsite proper, except for those parts of blocks 27 and 28 that lie within the excluded parcel defined above (see Official Plat of the Bodie Townsite, prepared by L. A. Scowden and E.C.P., dated August 9, 1880; D.P.R. Drawing No. 49229). Parts of several peripheral lots, and the Bodie Cemetery, also currently lie outside unit boundaries. These are to be automatically included in the Zone of Primary Cultural Interest when they are acquired by the Department of Parks and Recreation.

The parcel in the northwest corner of the unit excluded from the Zone of Primary Cultural Interest is so defined to permit construction of essential operations facilities, including: (1) an unpaved parking lot in Milk Ranch Canyon; and (2) rangers' residences immediately northwest of the Aurora Road near the eastern boundary of the unit. It has been determined that these proposed development sites are the most acceptable of the limited range of alternative sites now owned by the department, from both an operations and a resource preservation perspective. The parcel excluded from the zone is known to contain significant cultural resources, however. Developments in this parcel will be limited specifically to the parking lot and residences now being proposed for the locations defined above. No additional development will be permitted within this area of the unit. The proposed development will be subject to the same resource management policies and procedures outlined in the "Declaration of Management Policy" for the unit as a whole.

Although existing unit boundaries include most of the Bodie townsite proper, it is not assumed that all significant cultural resources relative to the greater Bodie social and industrial community lie within this zone. When additional properties come under the control of the Department of Parks and Recreation, a new Zone or Zones of Primary Cultural Interest will be defined, or the current one extended, if such is required to embrace significant cultural values.

Within this (these) zone(s): (1) complete historic and archeological integrity and authenticity will be sought; and (2) no camping or administrative public services or facilities will be erected (Resource Management Directive No. 45; Public Resources Code, Section 5001.5(e)). Developments outside the zone (including the proposed parking lot and rangers' residences) must be designed so they are not visual intrusions on the primary historic scene.





Cultural Values

Preservation/Stabilization

All significant structures, ruins, archaeological sites, features, and other cultural resources representing the entire flow of history at Bodie State Historic Park shall be stabilized and preserved in a state of arrested decay. A wide range of significant cultural resources, including standing structures and ruins, are in dire need of stabilization at present. Thus, implementation of a comprehensive stabilization program is of the highest priority, and will be assured before any further development of the unit.

Specific preservation and stabilization priorities will be delineated in a resource management program, to be prepared and adopted by the Department of Parks and Recreation. These priorities will reflect: (1) needs relative to public safety; (2) the present condition and historic significance of the existing cultural resources; and (3) interpretive and educational potentials of the resources in question. If stabilization is re-

quired to prevent resource deterioration and for interpretive purposes, it will be undertaken only after adequate research has been conducted, and in ways that will not unnecessarily threaten other significant archaeological, historical, or environmental values. (Resource Management Directive No. 44).

Restoration/New Construction

In order to retain the appearance of an abandoned mining town, no program of complete restoration of cultural resources is to be undertaken at Bodie State Historic Park. Restoration will be undertaken only as necessary to insure the long-term preservation of existing cultural and natural values. All restoration or permissible new construction will attempt to achieve an appearance compatible with that of an aging, poorly maintained mining community. Highest restoration priorities are the standing buildings remaining in the unit. In addition, streets and roads that have been relocated in recent years must be restored to their original positions.

Reconstruction

In order to retain the appearance of an abandoned mining town, only a small-scale, specific, well-justified program of reconstructions may be undertaken at Bodie State Historic Park. Resources in need of protection, stabilization, or restoration will be given adequate attention before any reconstruction is considered. Any reconstruction undertaken must: (1) accurately reflect a specific historic reality that was a verified part of the historic Bodie community; (2) be precise, in terms of placement and external appearance; (3) be preceded by and based on a thorough archeological/historical research program; (4) not compromise the integrity of surrounding cultural or natural values; and (5) use weathered materials in order to blend any new construction into the historic setting.

Interpretation

All significant cultural and natural values preserved, restored, or reconstructed at Bodie State Historic Park will be effectively interpreted. Interpretive objectives are to be in harmony with the declared purposes of the unit. Visitors will be made aware of the primary and secondary themes and periods, and the flow of history outlined in the approved Resource Management Plan. If additional resources are discovered or acquired, they also should be similarly interpreted. An Interpretive Prospectus outlining the specific



measures and programs by which these general objectives are to be achieved has been prepared, and will be implemented by the department.

Ongoing Cultural Resource Management Programs

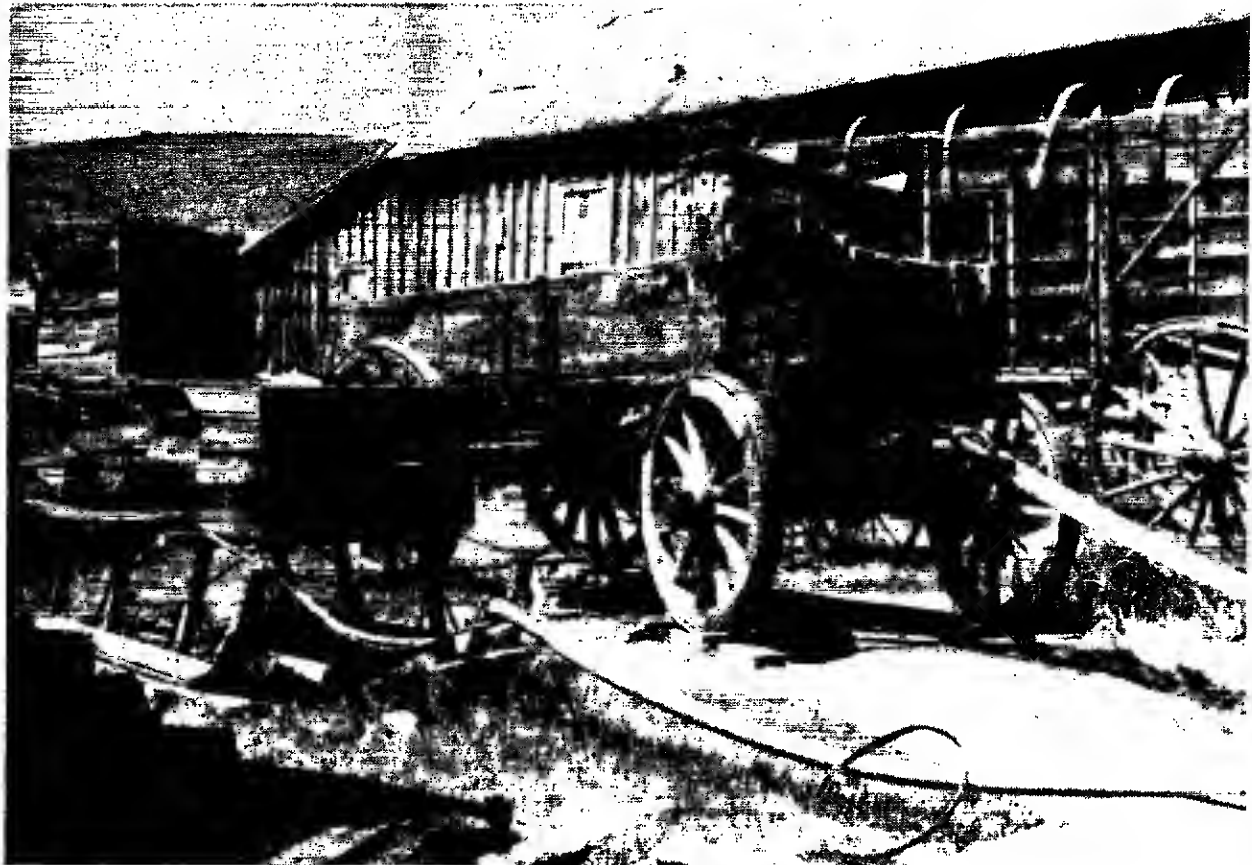
The Department of Parks and Recreation will maintain an updated inventory of all known cultural and natural values on properties under its control, or which are being considered for acquisition or development.

A long-range cultural resource management program will be prepared and implemented by the department. This will detail the specific priorities and methods by which the general preservation objectives outlined in the Resource Management Plan are to be achieved. Appropriate historical and archeological investigations will be undertaken as necessary, to identify, record, evaluate, and preserve the unit's cultural resources, before

any stabilization, restoration, interpretation, or development is undertaken. (Resource Management Directive Nos. 53, 54). These studies must be of sufficient breadth that they: (1) permit a thorough assessment and subsequent mitigation of any negative impact any proposed development or activity will have on the integrity of the unit's cultural or natural values; (2) result in compilation of a comprehensive data base on which any proposed stabilization, restoration, reconstruction, or development may be based; and (3) employ professionally recognized archeological and historical research designs, standards, and objectives. Archeological investigations will be performed before any development involving surface disturbance. Ongoing archeological field research will be interpreted for the visiting public. All archeological data and materials recovered will be fully analyzed and reported.

Artifacts

A long-range program designed to ensure the complete accessioning, protection, and preservation of the entire range of artifacts present at Bodie State Historic Park will be prepared and adopted. The unit contains an almost overwhelming array of artifacts, ranging from archeological deposits of household debris to large mining machinery; from durable stone items to extremely fragile cloth and paper goods. Extensive curatorial measures will be required if this material is to be preserved from natural deterioration, the elements, theft, vandalism, and fire. Achievement of these protective measures are a high priority among the department's objectives at Bodie State Historic Park.





Note Modern Power Pole on left side of Green St.

Undesirable Modern Intrusions

The most notable modern intrusions on the Bodie historic landscape are the existing modern power lines and the access road and parking lot. These features pose serious threats to the integrity of the existing cultural and natural values. The road and its traffic, the parking lot, and the power line constitute blatant visual intrusions on the historic environment. The road and parking lot also provide easy access to areas rich in cultural resources. This situation permits the unnoticed theft of portable objects, which can be quickly placed in an automobile out of sight of the operations staff on duty. Inadequate parking facilities result in the parking of cars along the access road right-of-way.

Removal of the access road and parking lot to a location outside the Zone of Primary Cultural Interest is an urgent priority. (See page 64.)

The existing modern power line seriously disrupts the historic atmosphere, and must also be removed from sight. The lines required

to supply needed power might be placed underground or in a historically accurate above-ground location, following the path of the original power line that served the community. If an above-ground line is chosen, the poles, crossmembers, lines, and insulators must be historically accurate in appearance.

Various artifacts brought into the town-site since its acquisition, and others that have been moved from their original site to their present locations, are considered to be modern intrusions. These should be re-installed and/or interpreted in a historically accurate manner. The priorities dictating removal or relocation of specific artifacts will be included in future interpretive plans.

Use of historic structures for administrative services staff, housing, and non-historic interpretive devices constitute modern intrusions on the Bodie scene. These include the miners' union hall, which is currently being used as a museum. All structures should be used to represent only documented historically accurate realities or events.

Unit/Visitor Carrying Capacity

In recent years, the popularity of Bodie State Historic Park has increased rapidly. The imminent paving of part of the Clearwater Canyon Road offers a prospect of even more drastically increased visitation. This situation makes it essential that the question of the unit's optimum visitor carrying capacity be addressed. Considerations involved must include the esthetic detraction of large numbers of visitors in the townsite at one time, the threats that the actions of these visitors pose to the natural and cultural values, alternative means of controlling visitor flow through the unit, the undesirable impact of increased visitation on surrounding properties, the problems involved in handling increased automobile traffic, etc. Such a study should be undertaken as an interdivisional effort. This will of necessity include detailed monitoring of visitor activities, and of the impacts of those activities on the unit's natural and cultural values, over a period of years.

Natural and Scenic Values

Environmental Setting

The objective of the department with respect to natural and scenic values at Bodie State Historic Park is to maintain and perpetuate a healthy, attractive, and historically accurate environment, keeping this environmental element appropriate to the historic scene at all times.

The natural and scenic values present at this unit are highly significant, as they fill a theme deficiency otherwise unrepresented in the State Park System. In light of this factor, the fragile character of these values, and the importance of a healthy natural setting free of modern intrusions to interpretation of the primary cultural resources, it is essential that a sensitive long-term natural resource management program be developed.

In order to adequately protect and interpret these unique natural values, departmental control of additional lands in the Bodie area



will be necessary. Minimally, these should include all of the Bodie Creek drainage. New properties should include examples of other ecological niches present in the region, but not in evidence within existing unit boundaries. Suggested acquisition priorities, based on such natural and scenic considerations, will be developed by the Natural Heritage Section.

Limitations on Land Use

As is the case with all historic units, the limiting factors on allowable land use at Bodie State Historic Park are based primarily on retention of the integrity of the historic scene and period. There are several considerations that put severe limitations on land uses at Bodie. The natural vegetation, being of a very low stature, provides almost no screening or concealing for intrusions on the historic or esthetic scene. Because of the high elevation, winters are severe, and the growing season is very short. This situation makes recovery very slow after scarring of vegetation has taken place. Because much of the soil is light or brightly colored (as can be seen in old mine dumps, access roads, and the parking lot), fresh scars are both conspicuous and long-lasting. These limitations demand that all developments be sensitively designed and carefully executed within the parameters defined in the Resource Management Plan. Visitor impact on the fragile natural and cultural values present will be monitored. If this research indicates a strong negative impact on natural values, it will be necessary to define carrying capacity, and to institute such visitor control measures as are needed.



Acquisition, Operation, Recreation

Real Property Acquisition

An active real property acquisition policy will be adopted by the department. This policy will be implemented in order to: (1) acquire all available significant historic properties that were integral parts of the greater historic Bodie community; (2) acquire or otherwise control all property required to provide a buffer zone necessary to protect the cultural, natural, and scenic values of the unit; (3) provide potential construction sites for necessary administrative, recreational, and public service facilities; and (4) provide a cross-section of the significant natural values present in the region. It is the department's objective to protect all properties within the Bodie Basin and the drainage of Bodie Creek.

It is essential that the priorities of such a program be derived from consideration of the preservation status of the cultural and natural values involved, as well as operational priorities. A pre-acquisition inventory of the natural and cultural values located within the greater Bodie area should be conducted. Available properties immediately adjacent to the unit should be acquired as soon as possible, so their management can be incorporated into ongoing long-range planning efforts. Every effort should be made to provide other forms of resource protection to parcels that cannot be acquired immediately, but that embody natural and cultural values significant to the greater Bodie area.

Unit Access and Bypass

The access roads to Bodie State Historic Park are an important part of the Bodie experience. At present, the existing access roads run directly into the heart of the zone of primary cultural interest. These roads, and the traffic they bear, constitute a serious intrusion on, and a threat to, the integrity of the unit's historic environment.

A network of bypass roads that will eliminate all non-essential traffic from the zone should be constructed. This bypass network must not be visible from the Bodie townsite. Preliminary studies indicate that such a bypass road is possible. All private vehicular traffic should be eliminated, visually and physically, from the zone. Furthermore,

it is the department's policy to maintain the current condition of the Clearwater Canyon road, from Murphy Springs to the zone of primary cultural interest.

Administrative Facilities

All of Bodie's administrative services are now located in historic structures within the Zone of Primary Cultural Interest. In addition to being an incompatible modern intrusion on the zone, this situation constitutes a very real fire hazard, because most of the structures are highly flammable and are heated with wood stoves. All administrative facilities should be removed to structures that comply with applicable building codes and are outside the zone (as defined in the Declaration of Purpose).

Fire has historically been a great threat to the existence of Bodie. This is still true today; high winds, the desert climate, and aging wood create a situation that could quickly spread an uncontrolled fire to many of the remaining buildings. Precautions against such an occurrence should include assurances that adequate fire fighting equipment and water supply is readily accessible, in good operating order, and can be transported from its storage location to any part of the unit within minutes.

Recreation

Development of recreational facilities at Bodie State Historic Park shall be secondary to and compatible with attainment of the primary historic objectives. Recreational activities that threaten the unit's historic or esthetic values will not be permitted. Non-intensive recreational activities, such as hiking and picnicking, are generally compatible with the objectives of the historic park. Although the Public Resources Code permits picnicking within zones of primary cultural interest, facilities for this activity must be placed and managed so they do not intrude on or detract from the historic setting. Camping, bicycling, and horseback riding are allowable recreational activities only if kept in areas strictly outside the Zone. The unit is not now large enough to accommodate these recreational activities. The presence of camping facilities within the historic zone has resulted in theft and vandalism in the past. In light of these limitations, the existing campground must be removed to an area outside the zone.

Special-use trails necessary for viewing cultural, natural, and/or scenic resources may be constructed. The route or site of each proposed trail or activity will be carefully examined for the presence of sensitive natural or cultural values. Construction will not begin until such mitigation measures as are deemed necessary to preserve those values have been undertaken. The use of all interpretive, recreational, and maintenance facilities, including trails, shall be monitored periodically to assess the level of damage to the cultural and natural values involved. If the use of these facilities is found to have an adverse effect on cultural or natural values, use will be halted until proper preservation procedures can be implemented.



Concessions

Inside standard stamp mill

In order that the delicate integrity of the historic scene at Bodie may be protected, no retail businesses or services shall be established under concessions agreement within the Zone of Primary Cultural Interest, or within the viewshed of that zone.

Operations

The current size of the operations staff at Bodie State Historic Park is considered inadequate to effectively monitor visitor activity in all areas of the unit; the staff needs to be expanded, to provide the protection necessary to ensure preservation of Bodie's cultural and natural values. Substantial staff increases (along with implementation of other visitor control techniques and a serious study of the unit's carrying capacity) will be required, if the negative impact of increased visitation on the natural and cultural values is to be minimized.

In consideration of the wealth of cultural resources at Bodie State Historic Park, it will be desirable to have cultural resource management personnel permanently assigned to duty at the unit. This staff would be in an effective position to coordinate all of the Resource Preservation and Interpretation Division's management activities, attend to immediate preservation needs, conduct research as part of an ongoing inventory and evaluation program, and monitor the impact of stabilization, restoration, construction, and visitation on existing natural and cultural values.

Other parameters regarding operational methods, schedules, and systems are discussed in the General Development Plan. All operation, interpretation, and development of the historic park and its cultural and natural values will be in conformity with Department of Parks and Recreation Resource Management Directives, the Public Resources Code, and the approved Resource Management Plan and General Development Plan.

GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN





PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Development Plan contains recommendations for land use, facilities, operations, and future additions. These were developed after an intensive nine-month exchange between the planning team and interested citizens, government agencies, and staff within the Department of Parks and Recreation. The recommendations presented are an amalgamation of many persons' efforts. It must be realized that not all proposals can be reflected in the final plan; however, all ideas presented were evaluated, and helped in formulating this plan.

1)



Existing Land Use Analysis

Existing land uses in the historic town are centered around interpretation.

The town is open for exploration and self-discovery. However, the standard stamp mill area is off-limits due to unsafe structures, machinery, and mineshafts.

Areas outside the town which act as a scenic backdrop for Bodie have been described as Bodie bowl. Four roads and a parking lot are also included within this area. Outside the bowl, most of the land is under federal Bureau of Land Management control and, therefore, is open to a variety of land uses. The prime uses of this area are grazing, mining, and recreation.

The Bodie Bluff, the area which was historically mined and where active mining exploration now occurs, is private property, and is off limits to park visitors. It is unlikely in the foreseeable future that the general public will have access to this area. Studies by the California Division of Mines and Geology indicate that there will be continued interest in mining this area. This suggests that it will

be extremely difficult to allow public access to the area, due to safety hazards and normal operational requirements of mining activities.

One of the first steps in developing the General Development Plan was analyzing the problems in the existing land use. It was found that existing land uses at Bodie are fragmented, disorganized, harmful to the resources, and do not take full advantage of the unique interpretive potentials. The numerous roads leading to the historic townsite, and the cars that use them, are modern intrusions which detract from the unique experience of visiting Bodie. The parking lot, located next to town, is not only an intrusion, but contributes to the loss of historic artifacts. The small eight-unit campground located in Milk Ranch Canyon is another contributor to the loss of artifacts, especially after dark. Within the town, numerous historic structures are used for operational purposes, therefore limiting the interpretive contributions of these structures. The use of historic structures for storage, maintenance, and park residences only increases the threat of fire, which may be Bodie's most serious enemy. Many interpretive themes are present at Bodie, and should be told; however, these themes are inappropriate within the "ghost town," and would detract from the Bodie experience if developed within the historic zone.

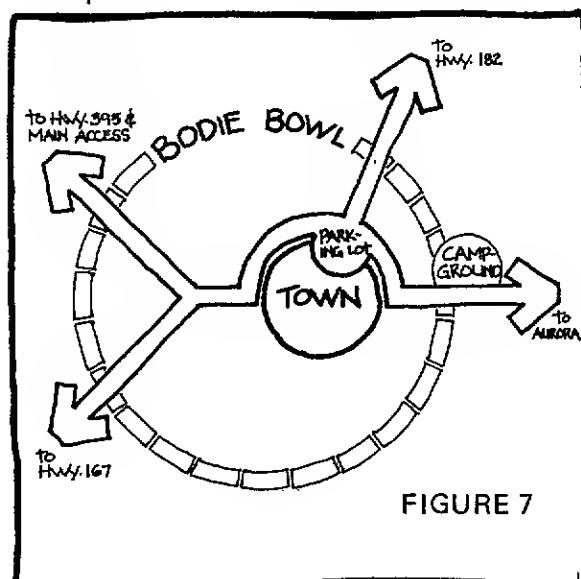
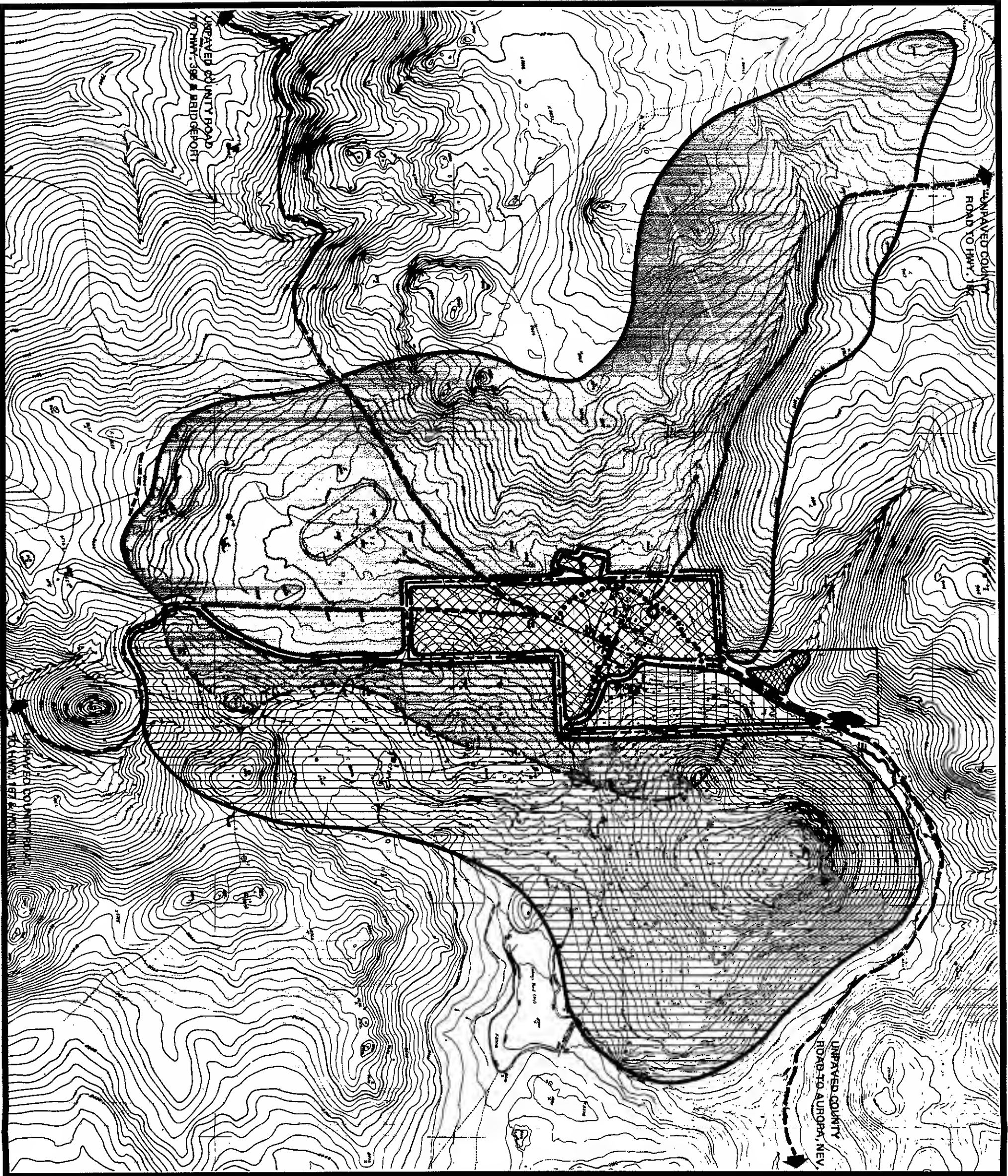


FIGURE 7

Conceptual Design of Existing Land Use, Fig. 7

Figures 7 and 9 have been prepared to illustrate the concepts of existing land use and proposed land use.



ANALYSIS OF EXISTING LAND USE LEGEND

CIRCULATION

- UNPAVED COUNTY ACCESS ROADS
- STATE PARK BY-PASS ROAD
- UNPAVED COUNTY ROADS CLOSED TO THROUGH TRAFFIC
- PARKING LOT

LAND USE WITHIN THE PARK

- AREA OF ACTIVE INTERPRETATION, SELF-GUIDED TOURS
- AREAS OFF LIMITS TO THE PARK VISITOR, VISUAL INTERPRETATION ONLY.
- PRIMITIVE CAMPGROUND
- REFUSE DUMP

LAND USE OUTSIDE THE PARK

- AREAS WHICH FORM SCENIC BACKDROP FOR THE TOWNSITE.
- HISTORICALLY MINED AND PRESENT DAY MINING CLAIMS OFF LIMITS TO PARK VISITORS.

NOTE:
All administrative services are presently located in historic structures.
Most land surrounding Bodie S.H.P. is under the control of Bureau of Land Management therefore open to public use.
All boundaries are approximate only.



BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK ANALYSIS OF EXISTING LAND USE

RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
APPROVED _____ DATE _____

DESIGNED	DATE	REVISIONS
DRAWN		
CHECKED		

SHEET NO.

OF



Proposed Land Use Recommendations

A number of changes are proposed to correct the problems identified in Existing Land Use. These are reflected in the proposed land use diagram, and in the General Development Plan Map, page 48.

2.

It is recommended that all non-essential modern intrusions be removed on a timely basis from the Zone of Primary Cultural Interest. Maintenance facilities, seasonal housing, and equipment storage could be removed immediately, if facilities are available. However, the ranger residences should remain in the town, in either their existing or more appropriate locations, until other safeguards can be implemented to insure a level of artifact protection higher than is now possible.

Townsite — Within the historic townsite, emphasis must be placed on preserving, protecting, and interpreting the unique cultural features.

1. It is recommended that the interpretive experience of Bodie be enhanced by opening up some of the closed areas and structures (for example, the Standard Stamp Mill), and by concentrating the interpretive period on Bodie's "ghost town" years, between 1935 and 1956. See Interpretation, page 49.

3.

The removal of these modern intrusions is in keeping with the interpretive program, and would ease the threat of accidental fire from department operational activities. See Modern Intrusions, page 56.

It is recommended that the security for artifacts be increased by installing electronic surveillance equipment. See Facilities Design Criteria, page 62.

Bodie Bowl is an integral part of the Bodie experience. The backdrop created by the bowl is reflected in every scene; the town forms a jewel of interest within the bowl, when viewed from one of the numerous vantage points on its rim. Within Bodie Bowl, it is recommended that modern intrusions be removed, and the historic setting be protected.

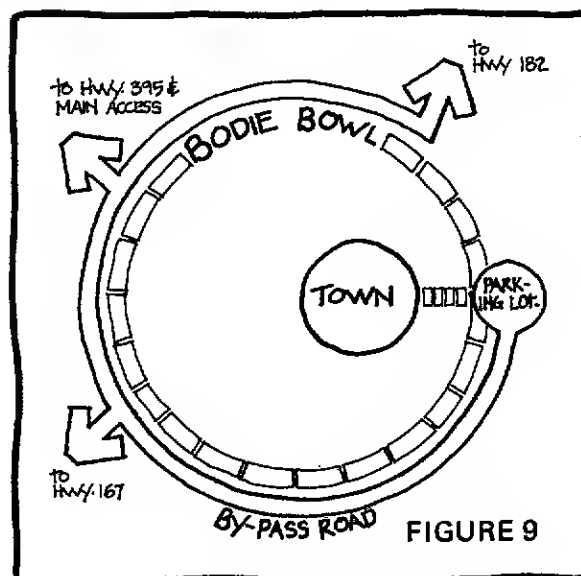
1. It is recommended that county roads within the bowl be abandoned, and relocated around Bodie Bluff. See Circulation, page 52.
2. It is recommended that the existing parking lot next to town be relocated to Milk Ranch Canyon. See Circulation, page 52.
3. It is recommended that the existing eight-unit campground be removed. This campground serves very few visitors, and is a threat to the historic artifacts. Studies have indicated that there is a surplus of camping units within Mono County, where Bodie is located, and that this campground is not required.
4. It is recommended that the department work with the local and federal governments to study and resolve mutually the conflicts in land uses arising from mining activities.
5. Open pit mining is not considered to be an acceptable resolution.



Existing Eight-Unit Campground

Lands outside Bodie Bowl have been identified that either add to the entry experience, contain significant cultural features, or are important in retaining a segment of the High Desert Province within the park. Proper management of these lands is an important aspect of this plan.

1. It is recommended that an interpretive center be constructed on the south rim of the bowl. An interpretive center outside the historic core is necessary to interpret the many aspects of Bodie that are not compatible with the deserted mining town theme. The south rim site was selected because it offers a good view of town for interpretation and surveillance. See Facilities Design Criteria page 62.
2. It is recommended that the number of park residences be expanded, and that eventually, they be relocated outside the townsite. Two residences are proposed for the Milk Ranch Canyon area, to provide surveillance of the town. Two residences are proposed near the interpretive center, to overlook the southern entry and the center. See Facilities Design Criteria, page 63.
3. It is recommended that equipment storage and maintenance be relocated to the Milk Ranch Canyon area, to reduce the threat of accidental fire, and to allow the opening up of historic structures now closed. See Facilities Design Analysis, page 62.
4. It is recommended that management of all lands within the area of interest and the park access corridors be compatible with state parks management philosophy (this is not meant to exclude hunting).
5. It is recommended that the department work with the local and federal governments to study and resolve mutually the conflicts in land uses arising from mining activities and road alignment.



Conceptual Design of Proposed Land Use, Fig. 9

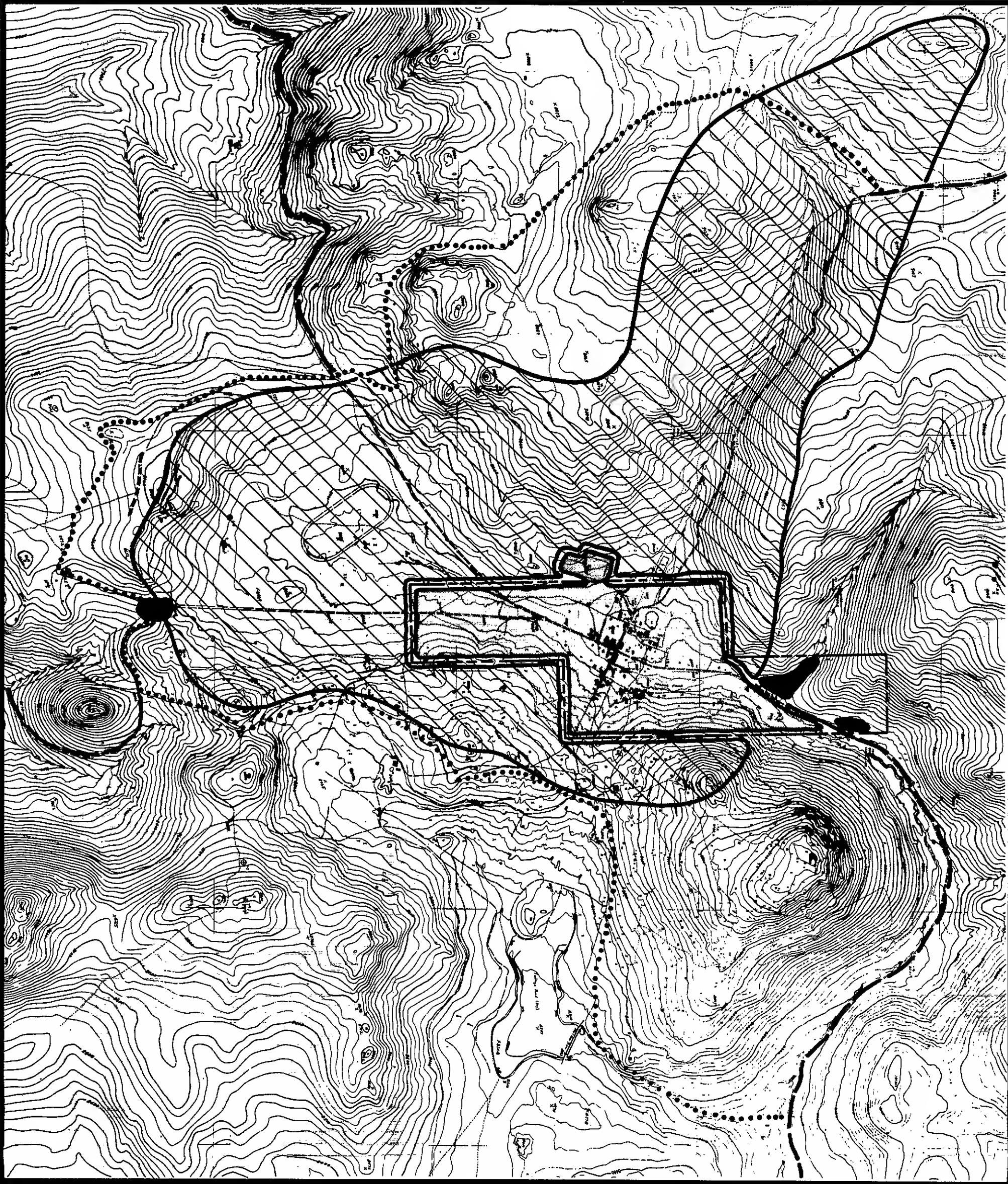


FIGURE 10
PROPOSED
LAND USE
LEGEND

CIRCULATION

UNPAVED COUNTY ACCESS ROADS

ABANDONED COUNTY ROADS AND SERVICE ROADS ONLY.

PROPOSED BY-PASS ROAD, SEE "VEHICULAR CIRCULATION" FOR ACTUAL ROUTE.

LAND USE

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES (PARK OFFICE, INTERPRETATION, CENTER, MAINTENANCE SHOP & YARD, RESIDENCES & DORMITORY, AND PARKING LOTS).

AREA OF ACTIVE INTERPRETATION, SELF-GUIDED TOURS.

AREA OF PASSIVE INTERPRETATION, FORMS SCENIC BACK DROP FOR THE TOWNSITE. NO VISUAL INTRUSIONS PERMISSIBLE.

NOTE: WITHIN ULTIMATE PARK BOUNDARY, RESOURCES SHOULD BE PROTECTED AND OPEN FOR INTERPRETATION.
ALL SOUNDARIES ARE APPROXIMATE ONLY



DESIGNED	DATE	REVISIONS
DRAWN		
CHECKED		

RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
APPROVED _____ DATE _____

BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK
PROPOSED LAND USE

DRAWING NO. _____
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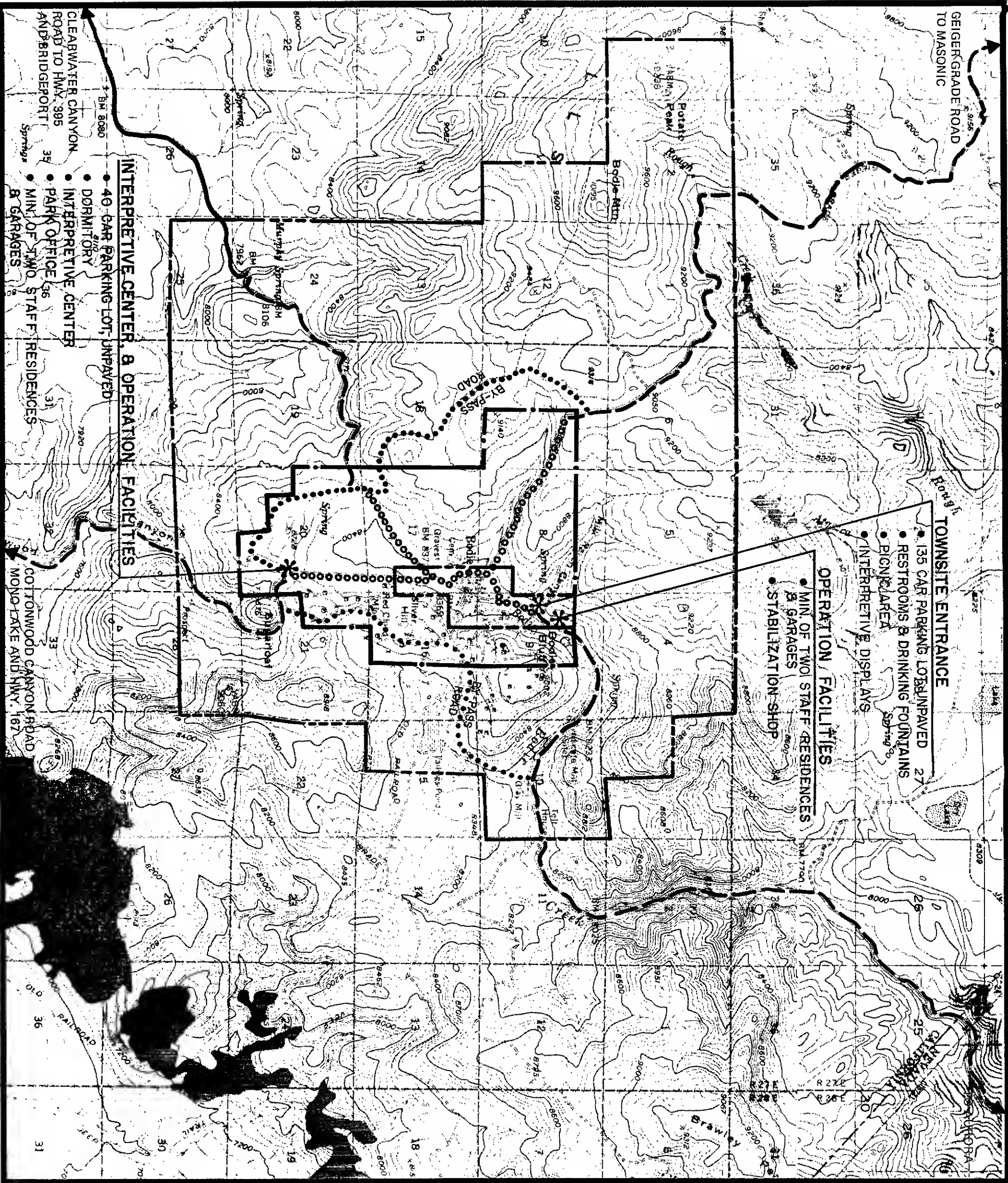


FIGURE 11
**GENERAL
DEVELOPMENT
PLAN LEGEND**

- EXISTING PARK BOUNDARY
 - AREA OF INTEREST
 - APPROPRIATE LAND ACQUISITION (BODIE BOWL)
 - EXISTING UNPAVED COUNTY ROADS
 - PROPOSED PAVED COUNTY ROAD
 - PROPOSED UNPAVED COUNTY BY-PASS ROAD
 - 0000000 UNPAVED SERVICE ROADS
- NOTE:
ALL BOUNDARIES ARE APPROXIMATE ONLY



**BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK
GENERAL
DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

APPROVED _____ DATE _____

REVISIONS

DATE

DESIGNED

DRAWN

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OF

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Interpretation

The following material concerning interpretation is from the April 1977 Interpretive Prospectus prepared for Bodie State Historic Park. This report is on file with the Department of Parks and Recreation.

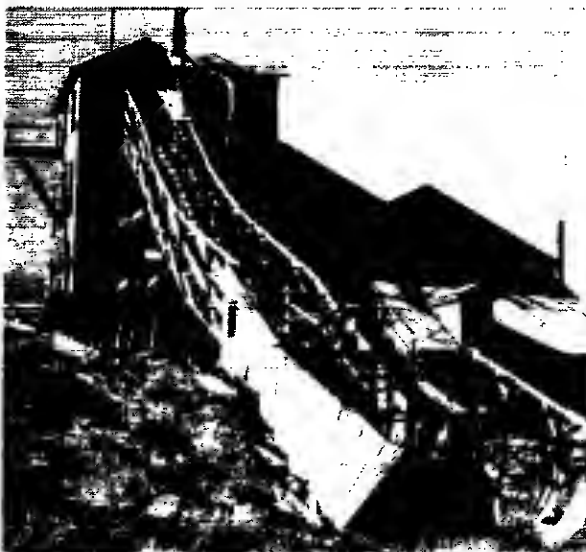
Two major types of interpretation have been identified at Bodie. The first relates to the historic townsite; the second relates to the proposed interpretive center.

Historic Townsite

The interpretive period should be the time after Bodie ceased to be an operating mining town. It is a town left in solitude, to be bleached by the sun, and weathered by the wind.

The interpretive theme will be: "Self-discovery of the Ghost Mining Town of Bodie." Equipped with self-guided tour brochures, previous visitor center orientation, and a sense of wonder, visitors should be able to imagine Bodie as it once was, and to appreciate the need to protect Bodie as it is today.

Exploration of the ghost town is the most exciting visitor activity at Bodie. Important to visitors' enjoyment are the self-guided tour brochures. A brief history of Bodie, an orientation map, identification of structures or sites, information on their historic uses, and how they reflect life in Bodie should be



contained in the brochures. This information should be keyed to buildings and sites by numbered wood posts.

These brochures should be distributed at the proposed interpretive center. In the interim, a brochure dispenser should be erected along a footpath between the parking lot and the ghost town.

To preserve the ghost town atmosphere, park personnel should not be in 1880-period dress, but should remain in uniform.

Interpretive Center

Interpretive periods should be the years before the demise of Bodie, 1859 to 1932. The prime period of emphasis should be on the Bodie boom years, 1877 to 1881.

Interpretive Themes — Primary

1. *The discovery and development of Bodie:* Visitors should be acquainted with the early years of Bodie's history, the story of gold discovery, the slow growth of the town's population, and the contributing factors to the Bodie boom. What was Bodie's role in the development of California? How many people came west due to the Bodie and other mining camp excitement? Did eastern investments greatly affect Bodie's growth?
2. *Mining at Bodie:* The geology of the Bodie district, the value and extent of gold and silver production in town, the historic relationship between Bodie and other mining camps, miners' fraternal organizations, and working conditions are topics that require interpretation.

3. *Life at Bodie:* What was the ethnic composition of Bodie? Who lived at Bodie, and why? What were the entertainments, living conditions, and business concerns of Bodie inhabitants? How were goods brought into Bodie? How did Bodie residents survive the harsh winters? The answers to such questions will provide valuable insights into Bodie lifestyles.

Bodie was a multi-ethnic community. How were the Chinese, Indians, and other ethnic minorities treated in town? What were their contributions and occupations? Bodie has distinct neighborhoods based on race and class. Where were these neighborhoods located?

4. *The Decline of Bodie:* What were the economic and social reasons for Bodie's decline? Were there any national economic trends related to the decline? Why did the town hang on, despite a disastrous fire? How did the appearance of Bodie change in the years of decline? These questions must be answered, for visitors to understand why Bodie became a ghost town.

5. *Technological Developments:* Was there a relationship between technological advances and the growth/decline of Bodie? What were Bodie's significant technological contributions? What were the national repercussions, and who were the inventors?

6. *Enjoying Bodie:* The answers to such questions as "Where do I go and what will I be seeing in the ghost town," photography tips, and a definition of arrested decay (so visitors understand why the ghost town looks as it does) will help make the exploration of Bodie more enjoyable.

7. *Keeping Bodie for the Future:* Visitors need to know of the human and natural erosion problems which plague Bodie's preservation and maintenance. A panel explaining and illustrating some of the techniques used to preserve Bodie structures, and photographs of vandalism, will hopefully increase visitor respect for the ghost town structures, and will add to the appreciation of Bodie as a unique and delicate cultural resource.



Interpretive Theme — Secondary

Natural Features: Bodie is the only unit of the State Park System located in the high desert region of the Great Basin. The unique characteristics of the plant/animal associations and unique geological formations should be interpreted.

Recreation

Bodie's recreational potentials are directed primarily toward the pursuit of historical interests and the esthetic enjoyment of the expansive high desert landscape.

Because Bodie is the only park in the State Park System located in the high desert region of the western Great Basin, the recreational activities should allow park visitors the opportunity to be exposed to as much of this spectacular scenic value as possible.

The following recreational activities would be appropriate for Bodie State Historic Park:

Scenic observation: Both cultural and natural scenic values should be available to park visitors for interpretation and enjoyment. This can be accomplished by an informative interpretive center and overlook, casual sightseeing around town by means of brochures, and hiking and climbing through the rough hills around Bodie.

Education: Cultural and nature studies are appropriate uses for Bodie. This park can act as a classroom textbook, open for the curious to investigate.

Photography and painting: Bodie's scenic qualities are excellent subjects for landscape artists or photographers. Both amateurs and professionals can enjoy the unique resources Bodie offers.

Picnicking: In the proper location, picnicking will enhance visitors' overall park experiences. Picnic tables should be placed at the townsite entrance parking, to be convenient for midday snacks, yet not an intrusion on the historic scene.

Winter use: Bodie is basically a fair-weather park, but snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling attract visitors to the town in the dead of winter. The Bodie area lends itself well to these winter uses. Snowshoeing and cross-country skiing will be

encouraged, and will have the same freedoms as summer pedestrian circulation. Snowmobile circulation will have the same restrictions as do other private vehicles within the historic zone.



Circulation

The most serious threat to the integrity of Bodie's historic environment is the presence of automobiles. Vehicles pose a visual threat, as well as contributing to the loss of artifacts. Therefore, one of the highest priorities should be removal of automobiles from Bodie Bowl.

Presently, four roads lead into the town, three of which are extremely visible. Automobiles on these roads, and those in the adjacent parking lot, are visible from the town. In addition, these vehicles create noticeable dust trails.

Due to these many access routes and the proximity of the parking lot, visitor control is a serious problem. Maintaining proper surveillance of four access roads becomes an impossible task with limited personnel. Furthermore, the parking lot is located within the principle historic zone, and due to the topography, is hidden from the view of park personnel.

To remedy these problems, a bypass road is proposed. This will eliminate the present intersection of county roads in Bodie by circumventing the bowl. The bypass road will terminate at a proposed parking lot in Milk Ranch Canyon (see Figure 14, page 65). From this point, visitors will walk a short distance into the historic town. The elderly and handicapped will be provided access into and around town by the Ranger staff.

The proposed bypass road will have several advantages: it will not be visible from the historic town; it will provide expanded interpretive experiences for visitors entering the townsite; it will provide access to the proposed interpretive center on the rim of the bowl; it will provide many panoramic views of the high desert and mountain scenery; and it will provide better protection of the artifacts within the townsite.

The proposed bypass road should be built to minimum unpaved county standards. Mono County has indicated the possibility of abandoning parts of existing county roads, after the new bypass road is constructed. The county has also indicated it would be impossible for it to fund this project, due to a limited tax base. Therefore, the State of California should take the lead in coordinating with BLM and Mono County to implement this proposal.

It is important that the road be properly designed, to avoid areas with severe snow drift potential. Other factors that should be considered in the final road design are proper grading and drainage for spring run off, control of dust, and views and vistas.

The use of service roads within Bodie bowl should be kept to a minimum, and only for essential services. It is recommended that the proposed bypass road be used to reduce the impact of service vehicles within the bowl during periods of high visitation.



VEHICULAR CIRCULATION

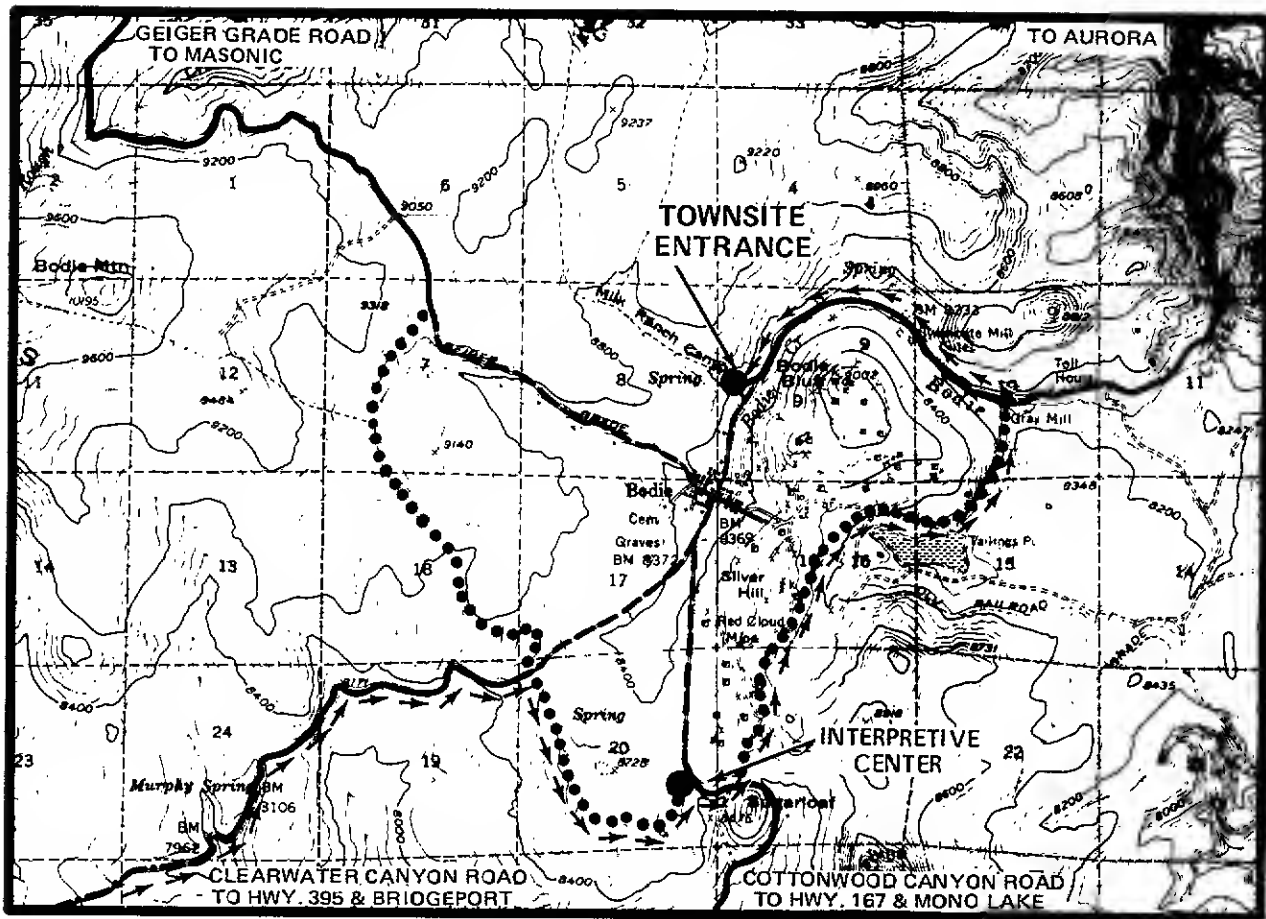


FIGURE 12

LEGEND

- ABANDONED COUNTY ROADS
- UNPAVED COUNTY ACCESS ROADS
- ... UNPAVED COUNTY BY-PASS ROADS
- - - PAVED COUNTY ACCESS ROADS
- PARKING LOTS
- → → → TYPICAL VISITOR'S ENTRY ROUTE

Although this General Development Plan does not propose the use of a shuttle system to transport visitors from the interpretive center to the historic town, this does not preclude a shuttle system at some time in the future. The present irregular visitation pattern at Bodie is not conducive to establishing a shuttle system. Some days, Bodie receives little more than a handful of visitors; the next day might be a weekend, with more than a thousand visitors. Therefore, until visitation is stabilized and controlled, a shuttle system would not be workable. Due to its growing popularity, a reservation system appears likely in the future at Bodie. Such a system would provide an advance estimate of the visitor load. Under these circumstances, a shuttle system would be feasible, and should be reconsidered.

Appropriate Land Acquisition

The state historic park is a relatively small part of the Bodie Bowl, as shown in Figure 2, page 7. The land surrounding Bodie State Historic Park is either under the Bureau of Land Management or private ownership. Many interesting historic sites are located outside the state's ownership, and are in need of protection. In addition to the historic sites, much of the land surrounding Bodie, as well as the entry roads, are visually part of the Bodie experience, and should be adequately protected from undesirable uses or development.

The land area which encompasses the historic features, remains, and sites, and which requires protection of the natural and cultural resources, has been identified as the area of interest. This land is not intended for inclusion in the State Park System, but is land in which the department is obligated to monitor use. Improper use or development in this area could result in irreversible damage to the historic and natural resources.

The land area which is particularly critical for preserving the visual quality of the historic scene (the Bodie Bowl) has been identified as appropriate land acquisition. In addition to preserving Bodie's character, this land encompasses most of the cultural resources, and provide land necessary to protect the historic town site.

Acquisition priorities are:

The first priority should be lands necessary to construct required facilities. A separate patent application should be submitted to BLM for these lands. The Department of Parks and Recreation should be prepared to acquire the necessary rights, if any encumbrances are found on these properties.

The second priority should be given to acquiring all lands within the Bodie Bowl. This would require the purchase of private inholdings, and a second application to BLM.

If any of these lands identified for acquisition cannot be transferred or acquired, a management agreement should be implemented to insure the proper protection of the remaining properties. This agreement should be part of the BLM's 1982/83 planning effort for the Bodie planning district.

To comply with the concerns aired by individual groups and agencies, the Department of Parks and Recreation is recommending, that lands in the "area of interest" zone not be acquired. Such activities as hunting and grazing should continue to occur, as allowed by the Bureau of Land Management. However, the Department opposes activities which would have an adverse effect on the historic scene (i.e. heavy off-highway vehicle use).

The state is also concerned with management of private and BLM lands along the access corridors to the park. Management agreements should also be developed for BLM and private properties in these corridors, to avoid unnecessary developments and land uses in the future.

Two parcels of private land within the Bodie Bowl are now funded for acquisition; see the appropriate land acquisition maps for limits of this acquisition, page 55.

Additional acquisition may also be necessary near all-weather Highways 395 and 167 for equipment and vehicle storage buildings. These areas could also be used for interpretive and safety signs.

All discussions regarding land acquisition are intended for long-range planning purposes only, and are not a commitment for acquisition.

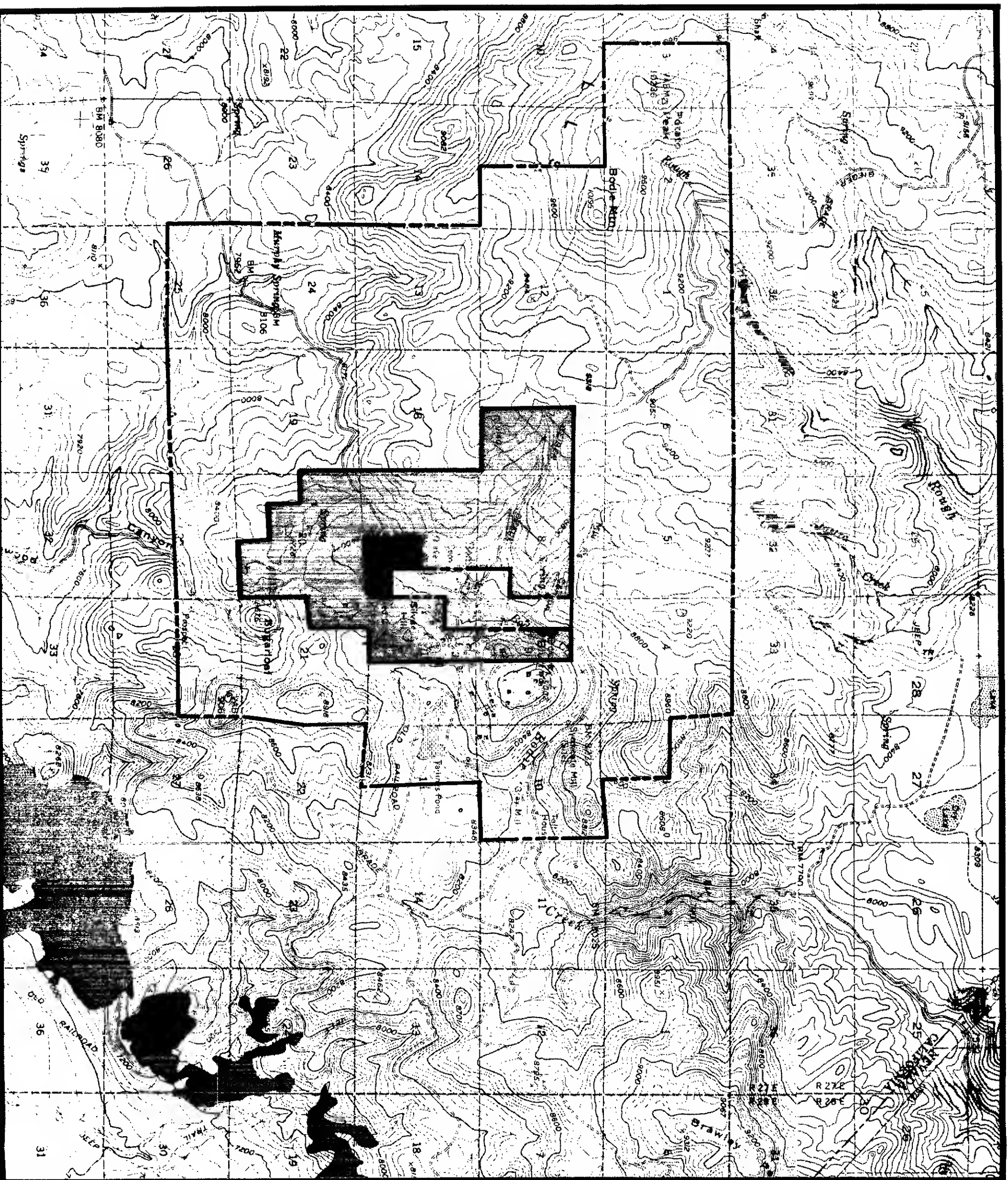


FIGURE 13

APPROPRIATE

LAND

ACQUISITION

LEGEND

STATE PARK BOUNDARY

AREA OF INTEREST

LAND CONSIDERED FOR
INCLUSION INTO THE STATE
PARK SYSTEM

PRIVATE LANDS, A.P. No.
14578



APPROPRIATE LANDS
ACQUISITION (BODIE BOWL)

Note:
All boundaries are approximate only.

Acquisition proposals shown here are intended for long-range planning purposes only, and are not a commitment for acquisition.



Modern Intrusions

One of the major focuses of this plan is to identify intrusions that detract or degrade from the quality of visitors' experiences. This was done by inventorying the intrusions, and by determining which intrusions were essential for the operation. It is recommended that non-essential intrusions be removed, and that the impacts of essential intrusions be minimized.

One of the major intrusions with the Zone of Primary Cultural Interest is the use of twenty-six historic structures for operational needs, which closed them to interpretation. These structures are used for storage of equipment and supplies, a maintenance shop, and residences for park staff. These uses constitute a misuse of the unique historic resources, and contribute to the most serious threat to Bodie — fire.

The following list identifies modern intrusions which are essential and must remain, and non-essential intrusions which should be removed:

1. These are essential modern intrusions, which must remain; however, their impacts should be minimized:
 - a. Department staff.
 - b. Avoid staged house displays and renovating artifacts to like-new condition. Artifacts should be placed in their historically accurate locations.
 - c. Artifact protection devices should be concealed from public view, or should appear natural in the surroundings.
 - d. Visitor sanitary facilities, such as restrooms, trash receptacles, and drinking fountains, should be in character with the historic period.
 - e. Contemporary equipment and utilities.



Modern vehicles

2. These are non-essential modern intrusions, which must be removed from the historic zone:
 - a. picnic areas.
 - b. campgrounds.
 - c. roads and parking.
 - d. contemporary monuments and plaques.
 - e. museum-type displays.



Ranger residences closed to the public

Operational Recommendations

The current size of the staff is inadequate to effectively satisfy Bodie's present needs. With the increasing popularity and the proposals of this General Development Plan, the need for additional operational staff is amplified.

It is the operational staff's responsibility to have the sensitivity and the expertise required to satisfy Bodie's unique and delicate needs.

In addition to the size of the staff, the scope of staff expertise should be expanded. The following qualifications must be satisfied on a year-round basis by department personnel:

Maintenance and construction skills, to implement the stabilization recommendations and proposed developments.

Cultural resource management skills, to overview preservation needs, to research, to inventory, and to monitor impacts of stabilization and construction.

Interpretive skills, to prepare and present Bodie's natural and historic values to the public.

Law enforcement skills, to provide for the public's safety and welfare, and to enforce park regulations.

Additional personnel, on a seasonal basis, will be necessary to provide support to the full-time permanent staff during the heaviest visitation periods of the year.

Concession Recommendations

Over the years, there have been a number of requests to develop concessions at Bodie. These proposals have ranged from mobile hamburger stands, gas stations, and stores selling souvenirs, camping supplies, and film, to the more imaginative program of restoring the railroad from Mono Lake to the old railroad station, and having a concession-operated train with concession tours of the Standard Stamp Mill. To date, the department has not allowed any of these proposals.

In retrospect, not allowing concession development has been one of the most important management decisions made at Bodie. The town and bowl have remained untouched by commercialism; the concept of arrested decay has not been compromised, and the experience of visiting a "ghost town" has remained. This decision has been reinforced by public comments generated at the public meetings on Bodie.

However, two exceptions to the concept of no concessions have arisen. One is the need for the sale of literature related to Bodie for those that would like more in-depth interpretive experiences. The second is for a film dispensing machine. Frequently, visitors arrive at Bodie unprepared for the unique photography feast available. It is recommended, therefore, that the concept of no concessions be continued at Bodie, except for a film dispensing machine and the sale of literature relating to Bodie. Both of these exceptions should be provided at the proposed interpretive center on the south rim of the bowl.

It is recommended that the department oppose any form of commercial development, if proposed, between Highway 395 and the town of Bodie, in the immediate vicinity of Bodie. Commercial developments in these areas would distract from visitors' entry experiences to Bodie, and visitors' experiences within the historic zone.

Carrying Capacities

The recreational carrying capacity is the amount of recreation use that a park or facility can support without causing excessive damage to the resources, and without lessening the recreational experiences of visitors. The design of sanitary facilities, parking, and



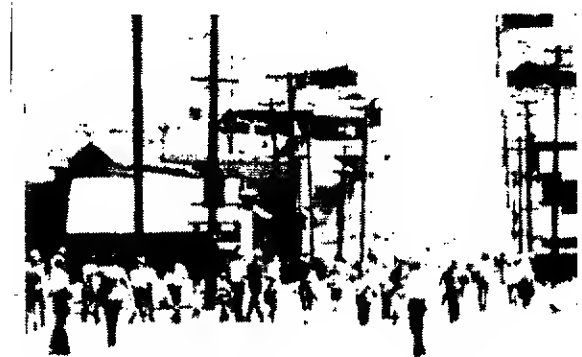
Parking lot overflow on by-pass road

other support facilities is based on the carrying capacity.

The carrying capacities for Bodie State Historic Park are recommended in Table 1, page 59. These are based on existing planning and operational experience recommendations, and on projections for proposed facilities.

It is imperative that these recommended carrying capacities be carefully monitored, studied, and adjusted as determined necessary, to maintain the integrity of the resources and quality experiences for visitors.

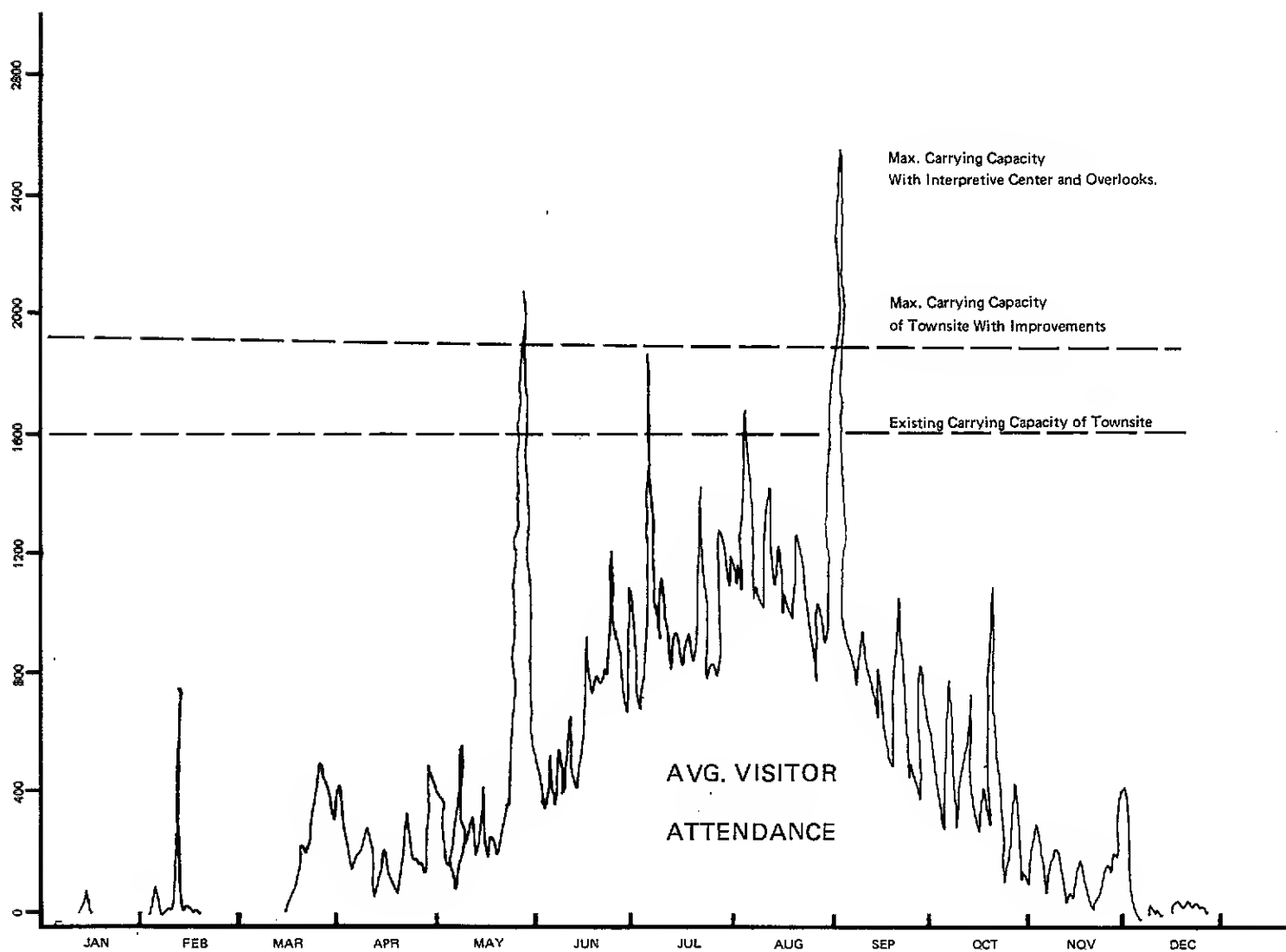
It must be recognized that Bodie is a very limited resource. It has been reported that the carrying capacity was exceeded on Memorial Day Weekend, 1977. Construction of the proposed facilities and implementation of a limited reservation system will be required to maintain the carrying capacity without disappointing large numbers of potential visitors.



High visitation

TABLE 1

AREA	INSTANTANEOUS CAPACITY	TURN OVER FACTOR	TOTAL CAPACITY	PARKING SPACES	
TOWNSITE	400 persons	4	1600	135	Milk Ranch Canyon
STANDARD MILL	50 persons	4	200		
MILK RANCH CYN. PICNIC AREA	40 persons	3	120		
INTERPRETIVE CENTER W/PICNIC AREA	140 persons	11	1600	40	South Rim
TOTAL	630		3520	175	





Proposed Facilities, Design Criteria

General Criteria

The following general design criteria are provided to guide in the proposed site selection, and in design of the proposed facilities:

Climatic Limitations

A southern exposure is desirable, because the sun will warm the southern slope and leave the north slope cold. The snow will tend to be deeper and last longer on the north slope.

The snowfall on the east side of the Sierras is comparatively light (average thirty-three inches on the ground in February). But snowdrifts can reach twenty feet in depth, placing tremendous pressure on structures. Snowdrifts are more likely to occur near the foot of north slopes.

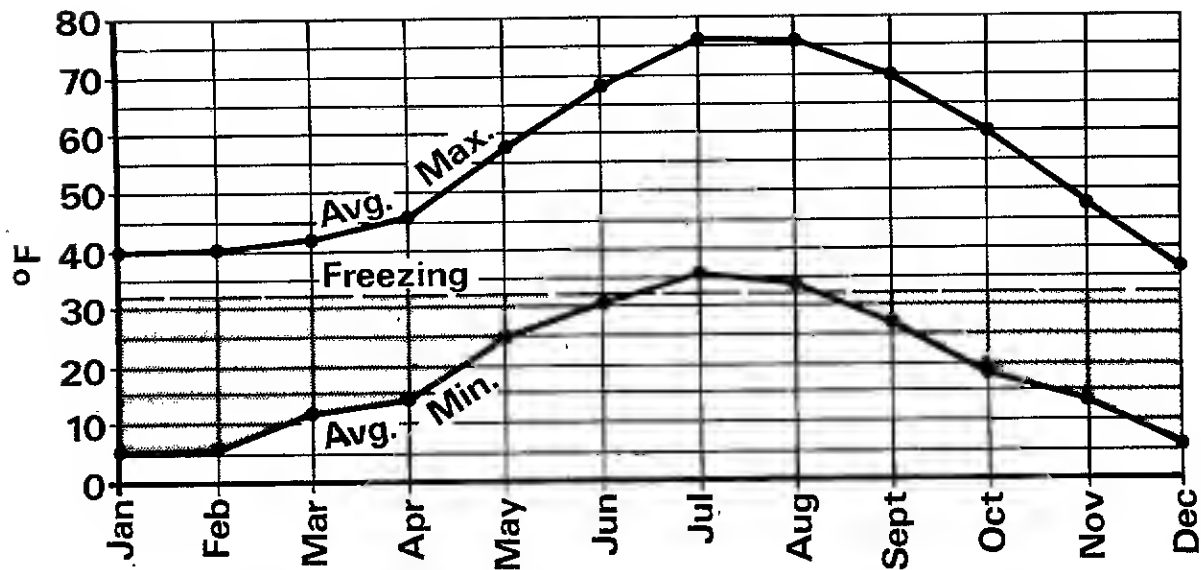
Steep slopes increase the possibility of snow slides, mud slides, and foundation erosion. Therefore, reference to the slope map and studies of surface hydrology will assist in siting and design facilities.

Winds can reach 100 miles per hour and more.

The following graph and figures were derived over an eleven-year period. The most important thing that this information indicates is how often the temperature is below freezing.

- Average daily maximum temperature: 53.33° Fahrenheit
- Average daily minimum temperature: 19.27° Fahrenheit
- Daily average: 36.30° Fahrenheit
- Average daily temperature in December: 21.55° Fahrenheit
- Highest recorded temperature: 92° Fahrenheit
- Lowest recorded temperature: -32° Fahrenheit

TABLE 2 — Average Temperature in Bodie



Slope Analysis

Generally, as the slope becomes steeper, the cost of construction and the environmental impacts increase.

Slopes of less than ten percent are desirable, whereas slopes of more than twenty percent are considered steep for intensive development of facilities.

See the Slope Map, page 21.

Visual Quality

The architectural appearance of all proposed facilities will be in character with Bodie, yet should not attempt to duplicate the aging and poorly maintained conditions of the historic structures and features.

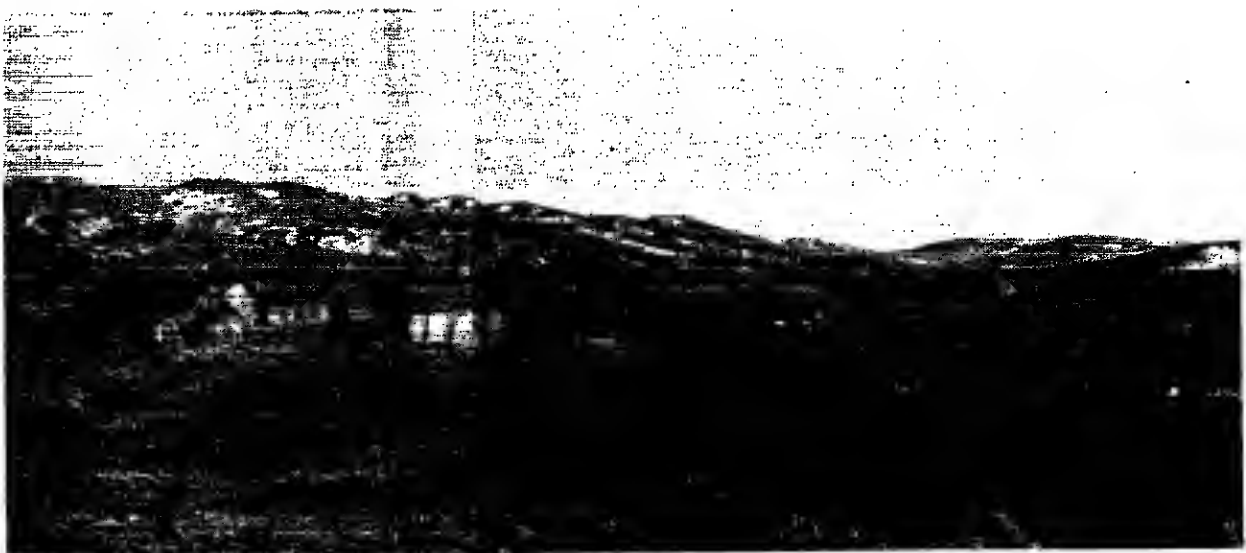
An overlook can greatly enhance visitors' interpretation and understanding of Bodie in its natural and historic setting, by offering interesting and picturesque views.

Any facilities which can be considered visually intrusive on the historic scene must be justified, and the impact must be minimized.

Human Erosion

Historic structures should not be used for park operations. The uses of these structures increases the chance of fire.

The following measures will lessen the threat of vandalism and theft:



- Removing the existing campground.
- Relocating the parking lot away from the town.
- Limiting access into the town proper to only one entrance.
- Educating the public as to the problem.
- Introducing electronic surveillance equipment.
- Siting structures to maximize visual surveillance potentials.

Specific Criteria

See the General Development Plan Map, page 48, for locations of the proposed facilities.

Park Office

This should be located in the interpretive center (see item No. 4, Interpretive Center, for additional design criteria).

The office should be accessible and identifiable. It should act as a center for information, first aid, and emergency control.

The office should provide department staff with a surveillance point for artifacts and displays in the interpretive center, and a general point for park operations.

Maintenance Shop and Yard

This should be located in the Milk Ranch Canyon area.

The facility should include a fully-equipped maintenance shop; stabilization maintenance is one of the most important functions provided by the department.

The indoor shop should be heated for winter use.

There should be an indoor storage area for protection of materials and artifacts from the elements, in addition to the outdoor yard for storage of equipment.

Garages will provide protection for snow tractors, tractors, conventional cars and trucks, and firefighting equipment (fire trucks require a heated building during winter months.).

The maintenance shop and yard will not be in view of the townsite, and should have a minimal impact on the townsite entrance road.

Year-Round Residences and Dormitory

At least four year-round department staff residences will be constructed, with a minimum of two residences at the north and south ends of Bodie bowl. Both locations will provide for excellent surveillance of visitor circulation within and around the townsite. The site on the southern rim of Bodie bowl will provide visual surveillance of the cultural resources, without being a visual intrusion on them. The residence located at the north end of town will maintain control over the entrance road. This residence will be relatively close to town, yet out of view of the townsite.

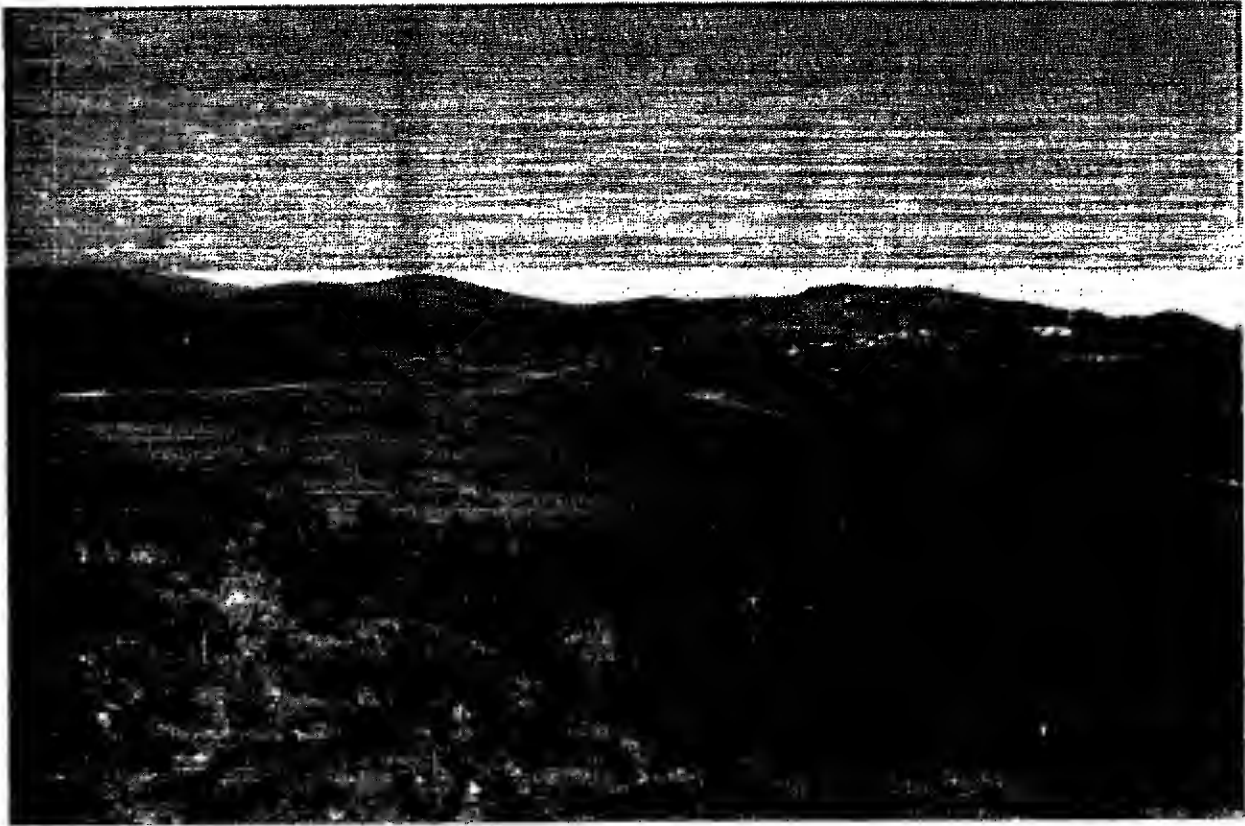
Because of isolated and hazardous living conditions, the residences will be clustered in groups of two or more for protection during winter months.

The dormitory will be placed on the south rim of Bodie bowl, and will provide housing for seasonal and visiting department staff. The dormitory will provide residential needs for staff assigned to Bodie on an intermittent basis.

Garages at the residences should be large enough to accommodate conventional vehicles and snow tractors for winter use.

The dormitory will provide both male and female staff with adequate privacy.

Wood-burning stoves or fireplaces should be provided as alternatives for emergencies, or for supplemental heating.



Interpretive Center

This should be located on the south rim of Bodie bowl.

This facility will provide all interpretive services, as defined on page 49.

The structure will provide view platforms (areas) for an overview of the town in its natural and historic setting, and views of the high desert and mountain scenery. The platforms should be constructed for both indoor and outdoor views.

The interpretive center shall have a minimal visual impact on the townsite. Handicap requirements will be accommodated in the interpretive center's design.

Interpretive Signs and Displays

Interpretive signs shall be placed on the Clearwater Canyon Road at Highway 395, and on the Cottonwood Canyon Road at Highway 167.

The Red Cloud mining display, and other artifacts brought into Bodie in recent years which are not historically accurate in their new locations, will be relocated to Milk Ranch Canyon, next to the entrance parking lot, or will be moved back to their original locations.

Roads and Parking Lots

The proposed bypass road and parking lots will be located as defined on the General Development Plan (See Figure 11, page 48). The road will be constructed and maintained at minimal unpaved county standards.

Road paving shall be limited to the Clearwater Canyon Road, from Highway 395 east to Murphy Spring area only.

All parking lots will be of minimal design and construction, using native material when possible.

The capacity for each parking lot is as follows: the interpretive center parking lot — 40 vehicles; the park entrance parking lot — 135 vehicles.

The interpretive center parking lot will be located on the opposite side of the rim from the townsite, so as not to be within view. The townsite entrance parking lot will be located at the upper end of Milk Ranch Canyon, so as to be removed from view as much as possible, with only overflow parking being allowed in the mouth of the canyon (see Fig. 14, page 65).

Restrooms and Drinking Fountains

These will be located at the interpretive center, the townsite entrance parking lot, and within the town itself.

Restrooms within the townsite should be pit-type, to retain authenticity. Restroom facilities at the townsite entrance parking lot and interpretive center will be flush-type toilets, because of the quantity of usage.

Adequate drinking fountains will be provided at the interpretive center, the townsite entrance parking lot, and within the town. The drinking fountain appearance will be in character with Bodie, and will be identifiable.

Shelters

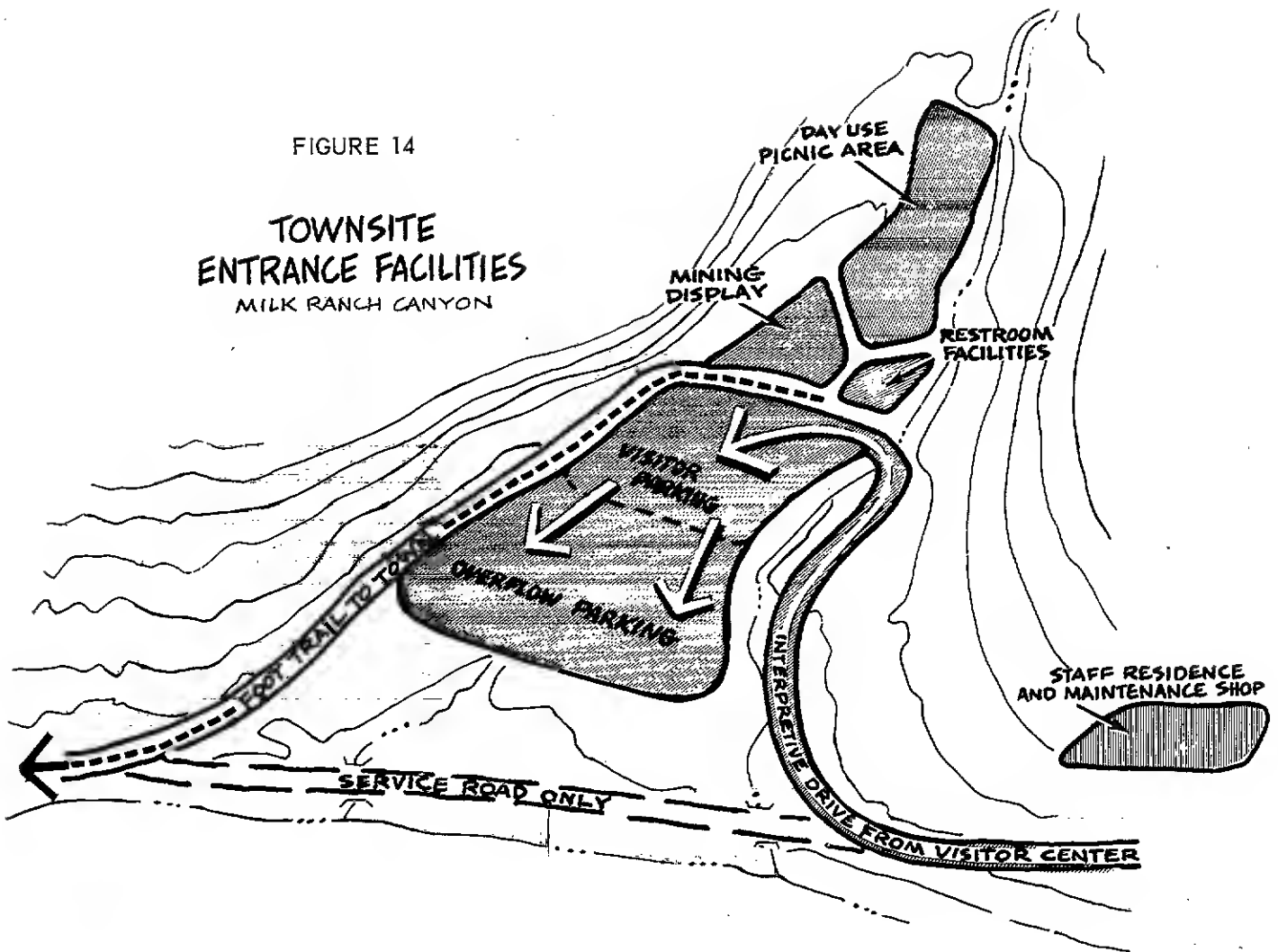
Formal and informal shelters will be provided, due to the unpredictable weather typical of Bodie. These shelters shall be identifiable and always available during visitation hours. The interpretive center can act as a shelter.

Some kind of formal shelter shall be provided in the picnic area at the townsite entrance parking lot.

Within the townsite, shelters should be informal, using the existing structures to minimize intrusions on the historic scene.

FIGURE 14

**TOWNSITE
ENTRANCE FACILITIES**
MILK RANCH CANYON



Picnic Areas

The townsite entrance will have a picnic area that includes ten picnic tables, trash receptacles, and drinking fountains. The picnic area will be sited to minimize the visual intrusion on the historic townsite. The existing topography and plat material should be preserved.

SEQUENCE OF PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The General Development Plan can be broken down into several logical phases, if funds are not available to implement the entire project. Each of these phases should satisfy the most pressing problems at the time of implementation, and should also provide a foundation for the following:

Phase I,

Stabilization of Resources

Stabilize historic structures and features to a state of arrested decay, according to stabilization program recommendations.

Improve operation facilities to lessen the chance of fire, historically one of Bodie's greatest threats.

Control vandalism and theft. Remove the existing camping, and introduce electronic surveillance equipment.

Improve the water systems and fire-fighting capabilities.

Complete inventories, categorization surveys, and studies.

Phase II,

Visitor Circulation and Development of Facilities at Milk Ranch Canyon

Construct a bypass road connecting the Geiger Grade road, the Clearwater Canyon road, the Cottonwood Canyon road, and the Aurora road.

Construct a townsite entrance parking lot in Milk Ranch Canyon.

Construct restroom facilities, interpretive signs, displays, and a picnic area at Milk Ranch Canyon.

Phase III,

Development of Facilities at the South Rim

Construct the interpretive center, park office, and a forty-car parking lot.

Construct year-round residences with garages on the south rim.

Construct a dormitory.

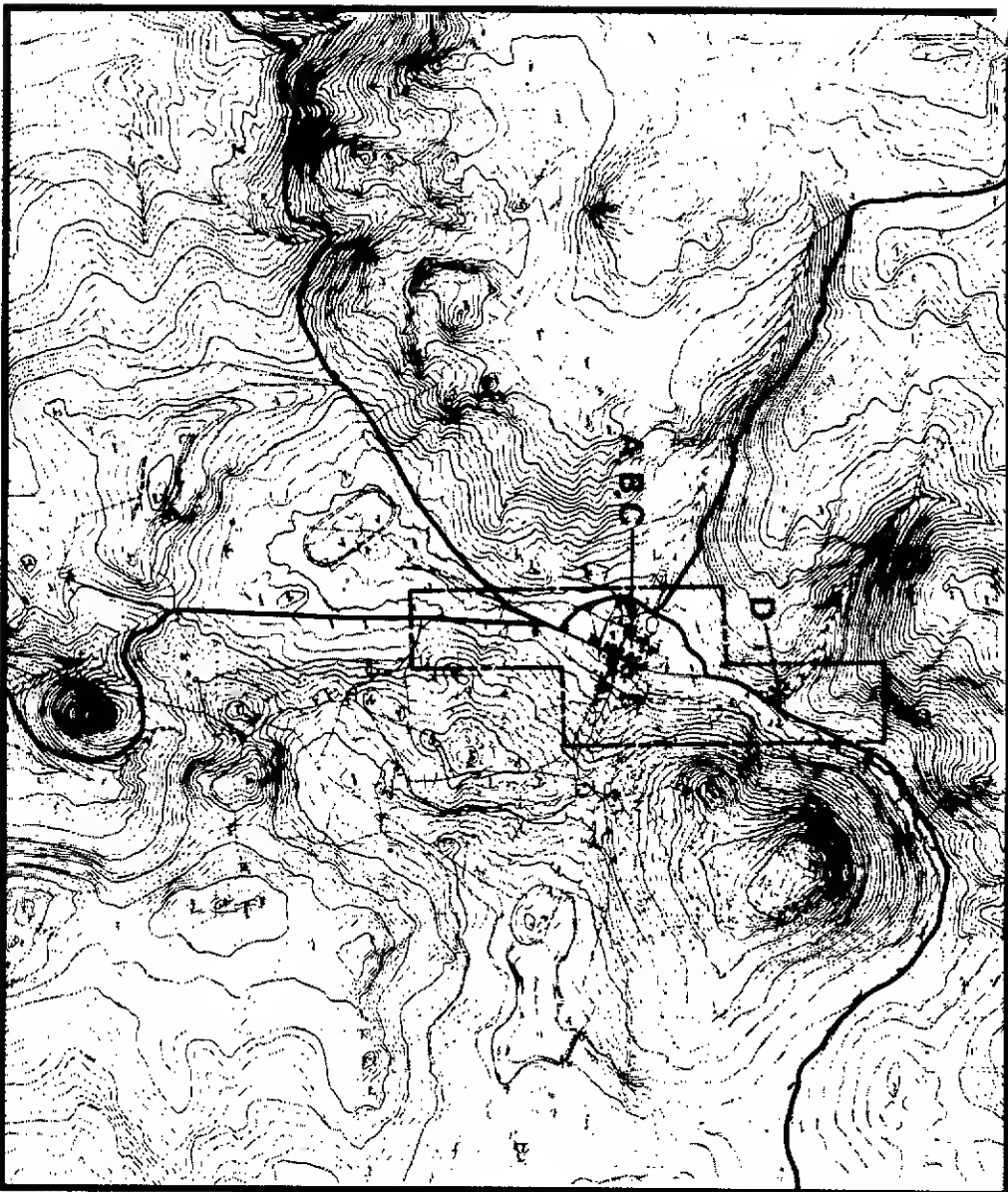
Remove all non-historic features out of the townsite, except for two year-round residences and a maintenance shop.

Phase IV,

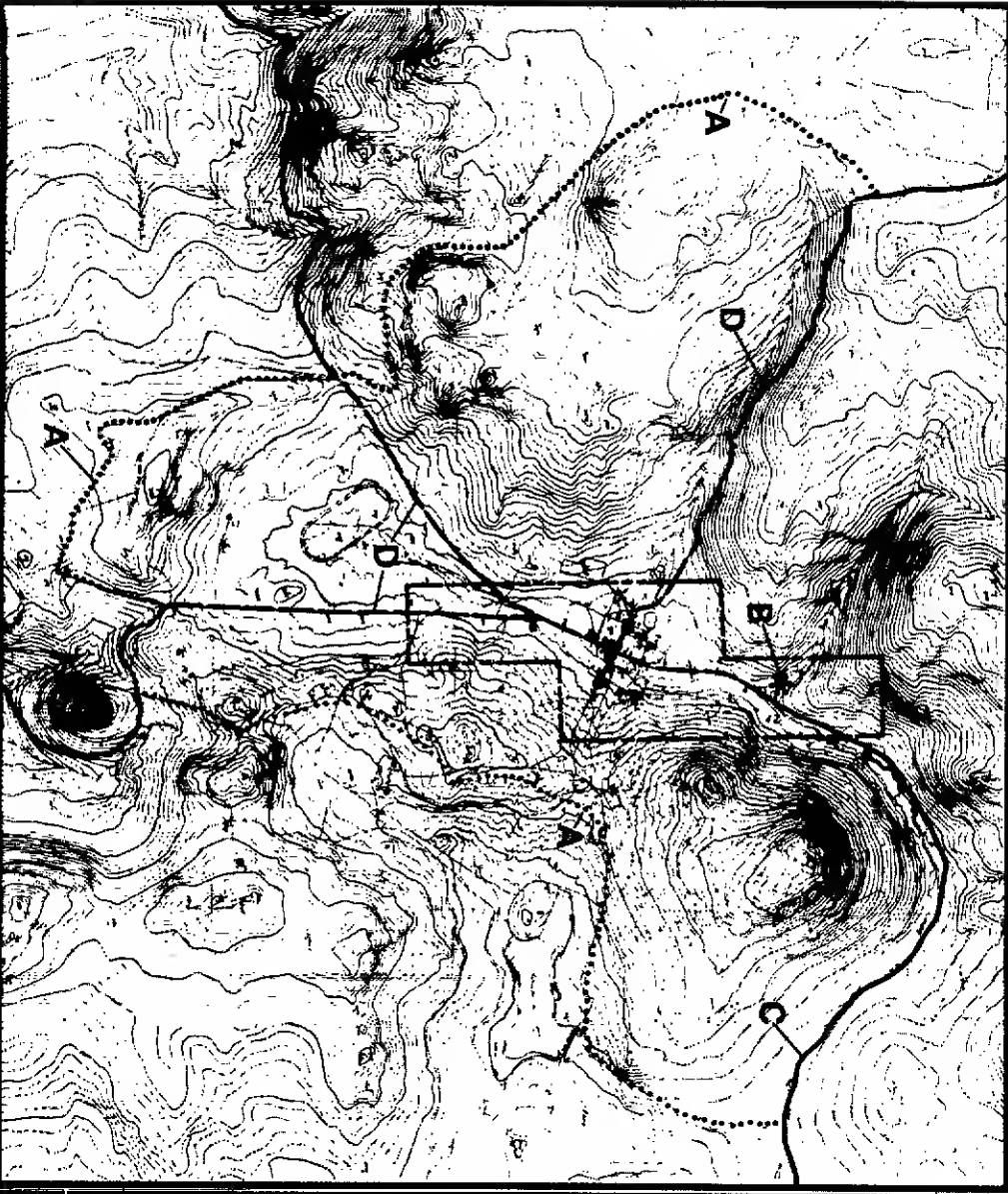
Development of Operation Facilities at North Entrance and Continued Protection of Artifacts

Relocate the last two ranger residences and maintenance shop out of the townsite.

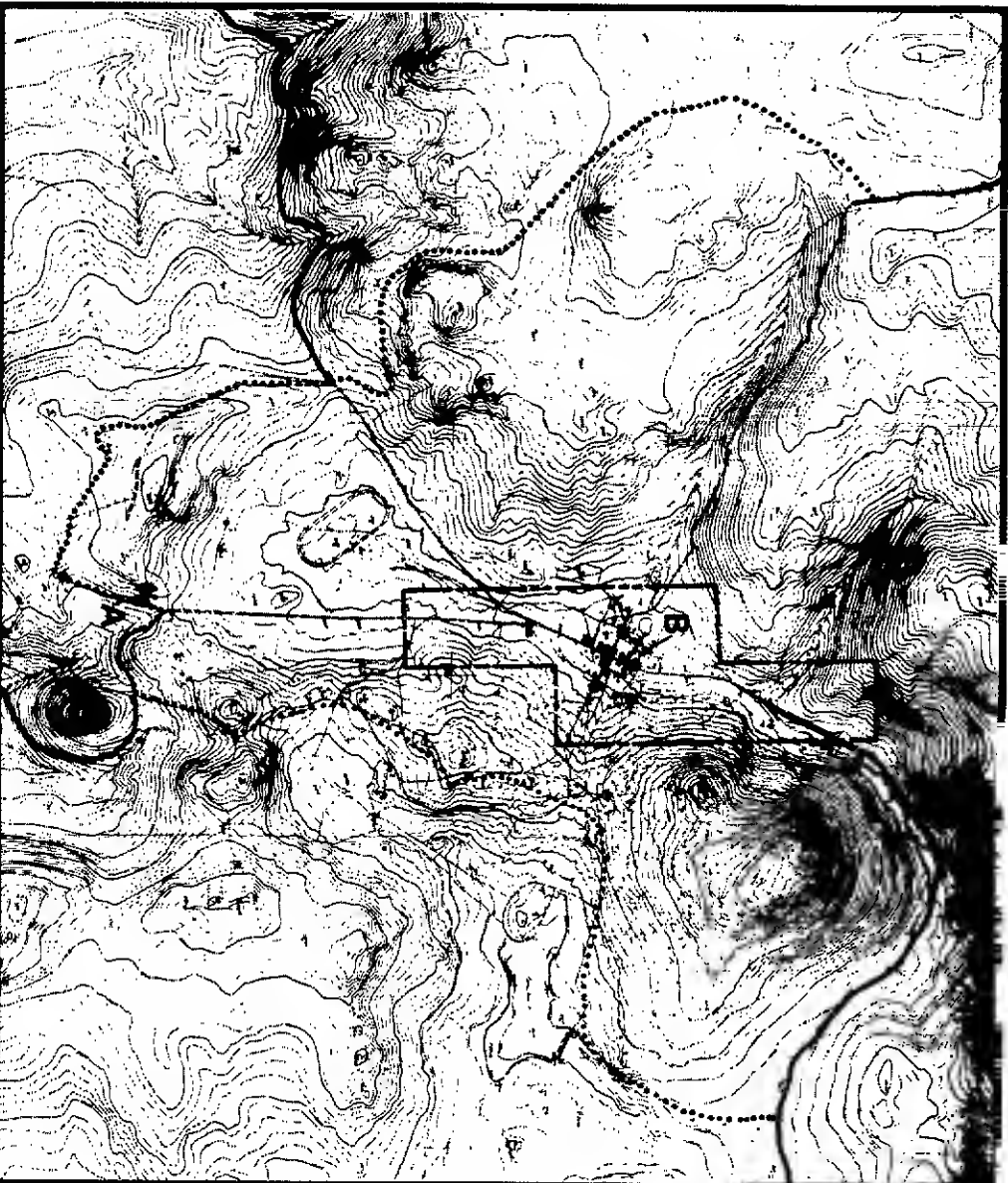
Provide adequate protection devices and surveillance equipment, to insure the protection of cultural resources.



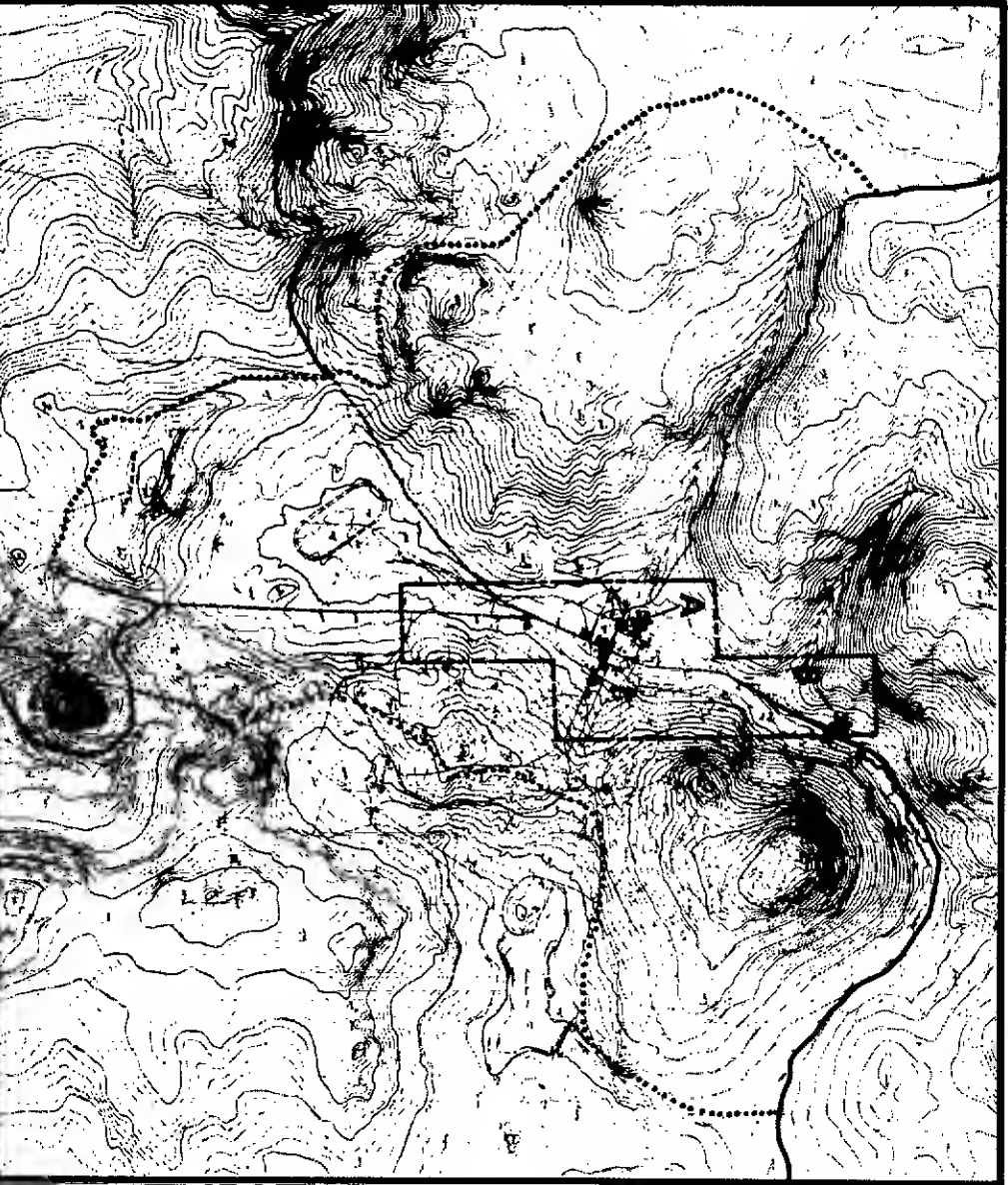
- PHASE I**
- A-STABILIZATION OF HISTORIC STRUCTURES AND FEATURES
 - B-SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS OF EXISTING SUBSTANDARD OPERATION FACILITIES
 - C-VISITOR CONTROL IMPROVEMENTS, ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT
 - D-REMOVE EXISTING S UNIT CAMPGROUND
- SCALE**



- PHASE II**
- A-EASY PASS ROAD, STANDARD COUNTY ROAD
 - B-TOWNSITE ENTRANCE, USE CAN PARKING LOT, DAY USE PICNIC, RESTROOM FACILITIES, AND RED CLOUD MINEDISPLAY
 - C-ENTRANCE ROAD, INTERIOR VENTURES, EXISTING CONVENT ROAD, CLEADING AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS
 - D-ABANDONED COUNTY ROAD, USE AS PARK SERVICE ROAD ONLY
- SCALE**



- PHASE III**
- A-INTERPRETIVE CENTER, PARK OFFICE AND 40 CAR CAPACITY PARKING LOT, TWO YEAR ROUND UNDO RESIDENCES, AND DOMINORY.
 - B-REMOVE ALL NON-HISTORIC FEATURES OF THE TOWNSITE, EXCEPT TWO YEAR ROUND RESIDENCES AND MAINTENANCE FACILITIES.
- SCALE**



- PHASE IV**
- A-PROVIDE PROTECTION DEVICES (SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT) TO DOWNTOWN OBSERVE, REMOVE CONVENT, YEAH, AND UNDO RESIDENCES AND MAINTENANCE SHOP FROM TOWNSITE.
 - B-2 YEAR ROUND RESIDENCES AND MAINTENANCE SHOP
- SCALE**

FURTHER INVESTIGATIONS

This section is a summary of additional investigations and studies required for implementation of the management policies and proposed developments.

The defined carrying capacity must be monitored to determine the impacts of visitor activity. If it is found that the number of visitors is having a negative impact on the cultural or natural resources, the carrying capacity will be readjusted.

Ex-Bodie residents are still available as resources. Interviews can be used to gain oral history from these knowledgeable individuals, and can be used for the interpretive program.



A detailed and comprehensive stabilization program is among the highest priorities. This program is to be consistent with the themes defined in the Declaration of Purpose, and will act as a working manual to give necessary guidance to implement the policies and proposals of the Resource Management Plan and General Development Plan. Interdivisional efforts of department personnel will be required in completion of the stabilization program. This program should be of enough detail to determine, for example, how a windowframe should be repaired, yet should be flexible enough to accommodate the inevitable changes that time will bring. Many years from now, the same type of stabilization program may not be appropriate because

of additional weathering of the already decaying material. At that time, a restoration program might be considered, if all possible stabilization techniques have been found to be ineffective.

A study should be completed to determine the feasibility of alternative energy sources when defining the types of utilities to be used at Bodie. Solar and wind power may be particularly appropriate for facilities proposed on the southern rim of Bodie Bowl. This study should be conducted before siting the structures.

Lands surrounding Bodie are under federal Bureau of Land Management control; therefore, the department must coordinate closely with the bureau to insure that management of these lands reflects its goals and objectives.

The department will present its concerns and desires to the bureau by way of this Resource Management Plan and General Development Plan. The department should continue to work closely with staff in the future, during land use planning.

The Bureau of Land Management recognizes Bodie's historic significance; it is a National Historic Landmark, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This classification enables Bodie to be eligible for federal grants, and provides for some protection. The bureau has scheduled planning for the Bodie area in the 1982-83 fiscal year.

The following list is a summary of the department's concerns which must be coordinated with the Bureau of Land Management in order to be implemented:

- o Access corridor restrictions, visual intrusions.
- o Assist in development of a bypass road.
- o Camping restrictions, and possible development of a new campground outside the historic scene, on BLM land.
- o Mining restrictions, so as not to be visually intrusive on visitors' entry experiences, or within the town.
- o Hunting restrictions within the historic zone.

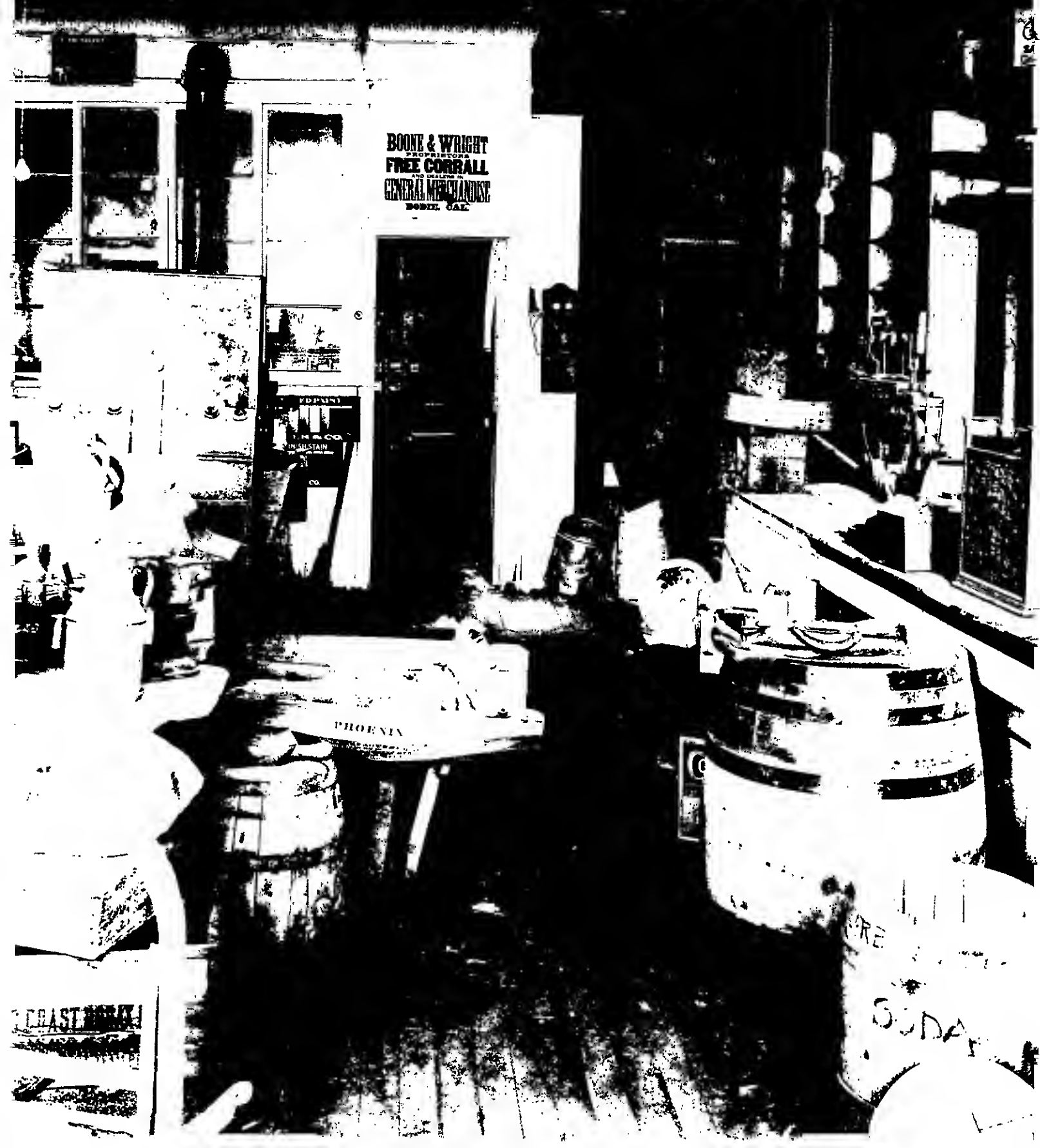


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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR REVISED BODIE GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is divided into three major sections: (1) description of project; (2) description of environmental setting; and (3) environmental impact. The degree of specificity of the latter two chapters is not in detail, due to the general, broad nature of the project description. The General Development Plan for Bodie State Historic Park is broad in scope; therefore, the EIR is also a broad assessment of the potential impacts. Whenever a specific phase of the overall plan is budgeted and proposed for implementation, a more detailed and specific environmental assessment will be prepared for that particular project, as part of the budget package.

Description of Project

Location: See Project Description, page 5.

Objectives: See Purpose of Plan, page 3.

Project Description: See General Development Plan, page 39.

Description of Environmental Setting

Existing environment: See Resource Description and Evaluation, page 13.

Regional considerations: See General Development Plan, page 60.

Environmental Impact

The left column in Table 3 lists the proposed facilities of the General Development Plan. Each of these was assessed, with environmental factors listed across the top. It was determined that there would be no significant environmental effects from the proposed actions. The interactions were all found either to be non-existent, to be beneficial, or to have a non-significant effect. Most of the proposed planning objectives will have a beneficial effect on the environment when they are implemented.

The analysis of environmental effects was based on the fact that there will be an increase in annual attendance at Bodie SHP. The left column in Table 3 lists facilities and plan phases proposed in the General Development Plan. Each was assessed, with the environmental factors listed across the top. Refer to the following key for a description of the four categories used in rating the environmental effects:

KEY TO TABLE 3

- ☐ *No Interaction:* Project implementation does not cause a significant environmental effect, because the proposed development or management does not interact with the environmental factor.
- ☐ *Beneficial Environmental Effect:* The interaction of the proposed development or management with the environmental factor is favorable.
- *Nonsignificant Environmental Effect:* Although the development or management interacts with the environmental factor, the effect does not cause a substantial adverse change in the environment, or the significant effect is mitigated by design criteria.
- ◆ *Significant Environmental Effects:* The interaction between development or management and the environmental factor may cause a substantial change in the environment that cannot be avoided if the proposal is implemented as proposed.

Short-Term Effects

During construction of the proposed facilities as described in the General Development Plan, there will be several non-significant effects, including increased levels of noise, dust, and consumption of energy.

TABLE 3
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF
PROPOSED FACILITIES AND
ACTIONS BY PHASES

[illegible]

Long-Term Effects

The proposed action will result in improved protection and preservation of cultural resources, and improved interpretation and day use facilities for the public. Following is a summary of anticipated long-range non-significant impacts:

1. *Soil Effects:* Soil erosion could result from construction of roads, parking areas, and buildings. Foot traffic near the townsite could result in some soil erosion and soil compaction.
2. *Energy Consumption Effects:* New buildings will require an increase in energy consumption. Increased travel to the townsite parking area will require increased vehicular fuel consumption.
3. *Vegetation Effects:* Construction of new roads, parking areas, and buildings will result in loss of vegetation, mainly of species in the Sagebrush Scrub biotic community.
4. *Wildlife Effects:* There are several species of birds and mammals in the Bodie area that may be disturbed by construction of new facilities, and by human activity. The sage grouse, deer, and antelope are three game species living in the area that are highly sensitive to changes in their habitat. Specifically, the sage grouse have several established strutting grounds (mating areas). Deer and antelope in the area need to use the few aspen groves and springs in the area for cover and water.

The proposed plan, as revised, does not directly infringe on these sensitive areas.
5. *Fire Hazard Effects:* Bodie has a history of severe fires, and the possibility of another one is real. Increased visitor use will add to the fire danger, but the proposed development will mitigate this increase.
6. *Hydrology Effects:* New roads and developments may alter some drainage patterns. Increases in water consumption will occur with higher attendance.
7. *Air Quality Effects:* High vehicle use due to increased attendance, and greater consumption of fuel, will add to air pollution.
8. *Noise Effects:* Increased traffic in the proposed parking areas and bypass roads will result in more vehicle noise in these areas. Traffic noise in the Zone of Primary Cultural Interest will be less, thus benefitting the cultural atmosphere of the zone.

Noises from people themselves, such as talking, calling family members together, etc., will have a detrimental effect on enjoyment of the unit by other visitors.
9. *Open Space and Aesthetics Effects:* Construction of roads, parking areas, and buildings will affect open space outside the Zone of Primary Cultural Interest. Removing roads, parking, and modern powerlines within the zone will have a beneficial impact.
10. *Transportation Effects:* Construction of roads and parking areas will provide access to the visitor center and the historic townsite. The proposed road system will bypass the townsite (see Figure 11). It will add distance, but will reduce the impact of traffic in the townsite, and sight of the townsite.
11. *Cultural Resources Effects:* Most of the action proposed will benefit the historical resources, such as stabilization, electronic surveillance, and removing the campground, modern powerlines, roads, and parking. However, minor deterioration of historic and prehistoric artifacts will probably continue.
12. *Public Services and the Community Effects:* There will be slight increase in staffing, and resultant increases in required services such as schools and utilities. (In the past, rangers with school-age children were not assigned to Bodie).

Increases in visitation will concentrate visitation at the interpretive center and the parking area in Milk Ranch Canyon.

Significant Environmental Effects That Cannot Be Avoided If The Proposal Is Implemented

The non-significant environmental effects described above will not cause severe damage. Some of these can be further mitigated. None of these effects can be completely eliminated by mitigation measures or reasonable alternative actions.

Mitigation Measures Proposed To Minimize The Non-Significant Effects

The following mitigation measures will substantially minimize the environmental effects —

1. *Soils:* The proposed roads, parking areas, and buildings will be designed to minimize erosion due to exposing soils to wind and water by cuts and fills. Drainage measures and revegetation will be used.
2. *Energy Consumption:* Detailed energy conservation measures relating to building construction and design will be included when a more specific EIR is prepared for implementation of particular budgeted phases of the plan.

The staff vehicles will be operated as little as possible, to conserve fuel.

3. *Vegetation:* Native vegetation will be protected and encouraged to grow in bare areas caused by abandoned roads and construction scars.
4. *Wildlife:* Wildlife mitigation measures consist of choosing the proposed interpretive center site and road alignment alternatives over those previously chosen. The revised proposals will protect sage grouse strutting grounds and deer and antelope habitat. Several previously proposed road alignments and trails have

been eliminated from the plan, to protect wildlife.

No use areas are planned in and around springs or aspen groves, which serve as habitat for deer and antelope.

5. *Fire Hazard:* The proposed fire detection system will help spot fires quickly. The fire hydrants will be improved. The staff will be trained in fire fighting, and equipment will be improved.

6. *Hydrology:* All park development, including buildings, roads, and parking lots, will be located to conform to natural drainage patterns wherever possible, and will be designed to minimize surface water runoff.

7. *Air Quality:* Air quality is good in this part of the state. Visitors should be encouraged to pool rides, or to use tour buses. State cars will be kept in good operating condition, and will follow strict emission standards.

Buildings will be heated by appropriate technology and clean-burning fuel, where feasible. Modern buildings will be well insulated.

8. *Noise:* Parking and bypass roads outside the Zone of Primary Cultural Interest will reduce traffic noise within the zone.

Removing maintenance buildings outside the Zone of Primary Cultural Interest will also reduce noise. Radio playing and other extraneous intrusive sounds will be discouraged and/or eliminated.

9. *Open Space and Aesthetics:* Roads and parking lots kept outside the Bodie Bowl will increase open space within the Zone of Primary Cultural Interest. Removal of modern powerlines and other intrusions will improve the "ghost town atmosphere", and will remove a significant non-historical "eyesore".

10. *Transportation:* Many visitors may not want to travel further than the interpretive center, thus reducing traffic

into Milk Ranch Canyon and the townsite area.

County roads will not pass through the townsite. The townsite integrity will be preserved.

11. *Cultural Resources:* Staff and well-hidden surveillance equipment will greatly aid in reducing thievery. Removal of the campground, road, and parking will also make thievery more difficult. Stabilization plans will help keep Bodie in a state of arrested decay. Removal of non-historic intrusions such as roads and powerlines will improve the appearance of the "Ghost Town".
12. *Public Services and Community:* There will be slight increases in the need for public services. The department will work with the county in this matter.

Day use attendance will increase, but increased facilities will help accommodate increases in attendance. Restrictions such as reservations may be necessary.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action

No Change: The unit would continue to operate under the present conditions, but problems outlined in the General Development Plan and Resource Management Plan would continue, and may increase. Among these problems are inadequate protection and preservation and modern intrusions into the Zone of Primary Cultural Interest.

Other alternative actions: There are a myriad of project alternatives resulting from combinations of possible individual actions. Reasonable alternatives for problems are briefly described below:

Roads and Parking

Paving within Bodie Bowl: It is felt that a paved road beyond the proposed county road paving project at Murphy's Spring would have a deleterious effect on the ghost town experience.

Various bypass and entrance road alignments: (1) The first alternative would be to have entrance roads, parking, and bypass roads within sight of the ghost town. This would not change the visual and noise effects, or the risk of artifact thefts, which now exist. (2) The second alternative would be the proposal shown in the first preliminary report. This proposal would be the best one for solving the problem of bypassing the townsite, and entering the townsite area from an unobtrusive point. Unfortunately, this alternative would have an effect on the sage grouse strutting grounds and the deer and antelope habitat. (3) The proposed alternative would be a compromise between one and two. Wildlife would not be greatly affected, and the ghost town atmosphere would not be greatly affected.

Campground: One alternative would be to move the campground from its present location in Milk Ranch Canyon to another part of the project. However, it is felt that the supply of campgrounds in Mono County area is adequate. (The Department has acted and the campground has been removed, as requested by the DPR Park and Recreation Commission at its meeting on June 9, 1978, in Mammoth Lakes, California.)

Concessions: Some thought has been given to having food and goods for sale. It is felt that concessions, except for the availability of film and Bodie literature, would detract from the ghost town experience, and would create litter problems.

Interpretive Facility: Several locations and types were studied. Possible locations include sites near U.S. 395, near Murphy Springs, and in or close to the Zone of Primary Cultural Interest. All have advantages and disadvantages as they pertain to the entrance and townsite and effects on wildlife.

The proposed site would have less impact on wildlife than other previously considered ridgetop sites, although it would have less of a panoramic view of the townsite and high desert region than the site originally proposed.

Only a large interpretive facility, which would be a combined museum, could house artifacts now displayed in the miner's union hall.

Operations Facilities: Housing in the Zone of Primary Cultural Interest is an

intrusion. Employees need to live near the town for protection and maintenance of the unit, but not in the zone. Several locations were investigated; each site has advantages and disadvantages.

The Relationship Between Local Short-term Uses of Man's Environment and the Maintenance and Enhancement of Long-term Productivity:

Implementation of the proposed General Development Plan and Resource Management Plan would protect and improve interpretation of the unit's historical resources, and would increase the numbers of areas with day use facilities for the public. The public should be able to enjoy the unit for many years.

If the Department of Parks and Recreation discontinued its program at Bodie, several other scenarios might take place. Among these are escalated vandalism and thievery, and commercialism. Additional commercial interests might be in mining or grazing of stock.

Any Significant Irreversible Environmental Changes That Would be Involved in the Proposed Action Should It Be Implemented:

None of the proposed environmental changes would be irreversible.

The Growth-inducing Impact of the Proposed Action:

Because of the paving of the road to Murphy's Spring, there could be an increase in traffic. The proposed interpretive center will be a destination for many visitors. The demand to visit the townsite may require measures such as a reservation system to prevent overuse.

Overall, the economy and growth in the Bridgeport area and Mono County is not expected to increase because of the project.

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Effects	Mitigation Measures
1. Soil Erosion	1. Design and revegetate with native species.
2. Energy Consumption	2. Specific building design to reduce staff use of vehicles.
3. Vegetation	3. Replant native vegetation.
4. Wildlife, e.g., sage grouse, deer, and antelope	4. Avoid roads and facilities in sage grouse strutting grounds, habitat areas.
5. Fire Hazard	5. Improve fire detection system, water supply equipment, and trained staff.
6. Hydrology	6. Use well-designed roads, parking, and buildings to minimize surface drainage problems.
7. Air Quality	7. Use car pools, tour transportation; insulate new buildings.
8. Noise	8. Move roads, residences, and maintenance buildings outside townsite.
9. Open Space	9. Remove roads and other intrusions inside bowl; remove modern powerlines.
10. Transportation Circulation and Roads	10. County roads will bypass town. Interpretive center may siphon off traffic from going further into Bodie townsite.
11. Cultural Resources	11. Stabilization and surveillance; roads and parking further away from townsite. Staffing increase.
12. Public Services and Community — Increased visitation	12. Work with county for minor increases in services for staff. Reservation system may be necessary on peak use days.

For a list of agencies consulted in preparing the preliminary RMP, GDP, and EIR see inside front cover.

Appendix

ISSUES PRESENT IN PAMPHLET/QUESTIONNAIRE

ISSUES

STABILIZATION/ARRESTED DECAY CONCEPT

EXISTING SITUATION

- o Maintain the town of Bodie in a "state of arrested decay" (preserve in present condition)
- o Due to old age and natural weathering, stabilization of deteriorating buildings is a continuous task
- o Many structures have not been adequately stabilized
- o Bodie can be considered a non-renewable resource (once it's gone, it's authenticity is lost)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

"Don't do anything that would detract from the ghost town atmosphere"

"Bodie must be stabilized before it falls apart"

Range of Comments

BYPASS ROAD

EXISTING CONDITION

- o County requires through access for county roads
- o Existing bypass road (see map) not county approved
- o Existing bypass road is considered to be a modern intrusion upon the townsire

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Imove bypass road outside Bodie Bowell

INTERPRETIVE METHODS

EXISTING SITUATION

- o Interpretation of Bodie consists of a self-guided tour (self-discovery).
- o Rangers serve as "roving" interpreters.
- o Visitors are allowed to enter the following buildings:
 - o Miller House
 - o Methodist Church
 - o Miners Union Hall (Museum)
- o Other buildings may be viewed through windows
- o Outdoor artifacts

PUBLIC COMMENT

"Leave as is"

Open more buildings for visitation and provide more interpretation.

Range of Comments

VISITOR CENTER

EXISTING SITUATION

- o Presently there is no formal visitor center.
- o Miners Union Hall is used as an informal museum.
- o A small structure near the parking lot has been used as an information booth.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bodie interprets itself
No need for a visitor center, would detract from its authenticity.

Desire more interpretation of Bodie's past and present

Range of Comments

OPERATION FACILITIES

EXISTING SITUATION

- o Two houses are used year-round as permanent ranger residences. Five other houses are used for seasonal staff residences.
- o Red barn on Green Street is the maintenance shop
- o Other structures are used for storage of vehicles and equipment
- o Park office is located in one of the ranger residences
- o All structures have substandard sear and sewer systems
- o Use of historic structures increases fire hazard
- o These operational services are required to maintain the park
- o Some of the best structures are used for operational facilities and closed to the public

STANDARD STAMP MILL AND SURROUNDING AREA

EXISTING SITUATION

- o Stamp Mill is the largest structure in Bodie
- o Stamp Mill is off limits to park visitors
- o Stamp Mill and surrounding areas have many safety hazards
- o Stamp Mill contains most of its machinery and gold processing equipment

PUBLIC COMMENT

"Leave as is"

Restore and open for public visitation

Range of Comments

VISITOR CONTROL

EXISTING SITUATION

- o Vandalism and theft are common occurrences
- o Four roads enter Bodie, creating visitor control problems
- o Park closes at sunset to discourage vandalism
- o Autos park close to town, creating visitor control problems
- o Visitation is expected to increase with the paving of the access road
- o The allowable maximum visitation has not been determined by the Department
- o Location of existing campground (see map) increases visitor control problems

PUBLIC COMMENT

"Leave as is"

"Provide the entrance and limit visitation"

Range of Comments

RESTROOMS AND DRINKING FOUNTAINS

EXISTING SITUATION

- o There are 6 comfort stations (4 "pit" and 2 "flush") and are in keeping with the character of Bodie
- o There are minimal water facilities (drinking fountain)
- o Additional facilities will be required with increased visitation

PUBLIC COMMENTS

"Leave as is"

Install additional modern facilities

Range of Comments

ACCESS ROAD
(395 to BODIE)

EXISTING SITUATION

- o The first phase of paving may start this fall or next spring; total project will pave approximately 9 out of 13 miles. The remaining 4 miles would be maintained by the State as an unpaved road.

This limited paving is a compromise which was agreed to by the State, county, and the Sierra Club's "State Park Task Force."

CAMPGROUND

EXISTING SITUATION

- o Campground in Milk Ranch Canyon (see map)
- o Campground contains picnic tables, spring water, and two "pit" toilets
- o There are approximately 18 campgrounds within the vicinity of Bodie and camping is allowed on public lands around Bodie
- o Problems caused by proximity of campground to Bodie:
 - Historic structures vandalized for campfire fuel
 - Theft of artifacts after park is closed
 - Objectional noise and visual impact

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Retain campground

Remove and/or relocate campground

Range of Comments

CONCESSIONS

EXISTING SITUATION

- o There are no private concessions in Bodie and the present policy is against the establishment of concessions
- o Literature relating to Bodie is sold at the park office and museum

PUBLIC COMMENT

No concession, would detract from Bodie's authenticity

Allow concession development as a visitor convenience

Range of Comments

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO PAMPHLET/QUESTIONNAIRE

Stabilization/Arrested Decay Concept: Emphasis was on stabilization of Bodie to a state of arrested decay. The concern was that the state could do a better job.

Interpretive Methods: A less active or more passive interpretive program seemed to be more desirable. The town would be best presented by self-discovery, or by self-guided park activities.

Standard Stamp Mill and Surrounding Access: Opening the mill and surrounding area was one of the highest priorities. It was determined this would greatly enhance the Bodie experience.

Visitor Center: Feelings were mixed as to this subject. Some felt that a misplaced visitor center and/or the visitor center itself would have a negative impact on the Bodie experience. Others felt the visitor center would greatly enhance visitors' enjoyment. In summary, if the impact of the visitor center could be limited, it would be desirable.

Visitor Control: Once members of the public were made aware of the vandalism and theft problems, they emphasized the need for adequate control to ensure preservation of the resources.

Campground: As in visitor control, the public was not willing to accept the problems created by the existing campground, and felt it must be eliminated or relocated.

County Bypass Road: The bypass road concept was extremely desirable.

Access Road: Feelings were split down the middle on the county's plan of paving the entrance road. This indicated that the paving should be limited, and should not be increased in the future.

Operations Facilities: The public response indicated that the existing situation was acceptable, but if the operations facilities were removed from the historic structures, this would open them for public interpretation, and this was considered more desirable.

Concessions: Concessions were considered undesirable.

Restrooms/Drinking Fountains: These facilities should be kept at a minimum, and should not conflict with Bodie's authenticity. As visitation increases, these facilities must also increase, but should be kept at a minimum within the townsite itself.

Appendix B

COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM REVIEWING AGENCIES AND RESPONSES TO COMMENTS

The Preliminary Plan for Bodie State Historic Park Resource Management Plan, General Development Plan, and Environmental Impact Report was circulated to the State Clearinghouse, (15 copies), Mono County and to Dr. Mark of the Sierra Club. The revised preliminary General Development Plan, Resource Management Plan, and Environmental Impact Report responded to most of the original comments.

Part I — Comments

Comments on the original plan were received from the Department of General Services, Transportation, and Fish and Game. Responses to these comments appear in Part II, p. 91.

Memorandum

Date : January 26, 1978

File No. :

To : Office of Planning
and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject : Bodie State Historic
Park, EIR SCH# 78013040

From : Department of General Services - Office of Facilities
Planning & Development
1015 L Street - 95814
445-0780

The Department of General Services has reviewed the subject EIR and is providing the following comments for your information:

On Page 54 of the document, it is noted that two parcels of private land within Bodie Bowl are now funded for acquisition. Inasmuch as General Services will be carrying out the acquisition of this property, information as to the economic impact of this acquisition upon the local tax base and upon the private owners of the property should be discussed. Additionally, any relocation assistance that may be required due to the acquisition of this private land should also be brought to light in the EIR.

If any demolition of State-owned structures is required in implementing this project, a thorough discussion of the significance of those structures must be made available to this Department before a demolition contract can be let. Such information may not be available at the time of this EIR but should be made available in a subsequent environmental document on that demolition.

If there are any questions concerning this memorandum, please feel free to call me at 5-0780.

James R. Hargrove

James R. Hargrove,
Senior Environmental
Planner
Environmental
Planning Section

JRH:ao

Memorandum

To : Mr. Art Lichtman
A-95 Coordinator - DOTP

Date: February 21, 1978

File : Clearinghouse

From : **DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**
District 9

Subject: SCH 78013040
Bodie SHP Resource Management Plan,
General Development Plan, and EIR

The plan should reflect accurately the status of the "Clearwater Canyon Road". This road is currently maintained by Mono County, but is adopted State Highway Route 270. The legislative description of this route is, "from Route 395 south of Bridgeport to Bodie State Historic Park". Mono County has one project to pave a portion of this road now under contract, and a second project to complete paving to the vicinity of Murphy Springs is scheduled. Upon completion of each project, CALTRANS will assume responsibility for maintaining and operating the paved road. Pursuant to an agreement between the County of Mono, CALTRANS, and the Department of Parks and Recreation, DP&R will assume responsibility for maintaining the unpaved portion of this road between the vicinity of Murphy Springs and the end of the route. (This may be accomplished by CALTRANS forces under an interagency agreement.)

Inasmuch as the ultimate park boundary is more than three miles westerly of the existing boundary cited in the legislative description of the route, and inasmuch as DP&R will assume responsibility for much of the road inside the ultimate park boundary, we suggest that consideration be given to revising the limits of the route. In this way the jurisdiction of our respective agencies can be clearly defined.

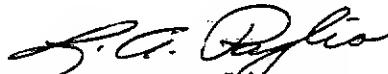
Despite relocation of the various roads in the Bodie Basin, the dust problem mentioned on page 52 will continue to exist. In fact, if the "townsite entrance" is located north of the townsite as shown on Figure 12 (page 53), considerable additional travel will be generated over unpaved roads, as compared with possible alternative entrances such as one near the racetrack. A visitor arriving via Clearwater Canyon, for example, would drive an additional 12 miles (round-trip basis) on the by-pass road and the Milk Ranch Canyon Road. Since most visitors arrive via Clearwater Canyon, it would seem reasonable to provide the "townsite entrance" off Clearwater Canyon Road.

Mr. Art Lichtman

February 21, 1978

-2-

Considering the elevation of Bodie, placing the parking lot and "townsite entrance" a half-mile from the townsite will have the effect of restricting visitorship to some extent. The elderly and handicapped will find it difficult or impossible to walk into the townsite.



L. A. Paglia
Chief Deputy District Director

AHH:ac

Memorandum

CKF

To : 1. L. Frank Goodson
Projects Coordinator

Date: March 13, 1978

2. California Department of Parks
and Recreation
P.O. Box 2390
Sacramento, California 95811

From : Department of Fish and Game

Subject: SCH 78013040 - Bodie State Historic Park

We have reviewed the "Resource Management Plan", "General Development Plan", and "Environmental Impact Report" for the Bodie State Historic Park, and find we must oppose the proposed park expansion program and its public use facility development due to potential severe impacts upon wildlife habitat, and furthering the loss of lands open to public hunting.

We specifically refer to the potential damage to wildlife habitat and adverse impacts to wildlife that could result from the implementation of the following public use facilities which are proposed in the General Development Plan.

1. The proposed vehicular travel route would impact fragile and highly valuable wildlife habitat consisting of mountain meadow and riparian woodland. Valuable sage grouse strutting grounds in sage brush ranges would also be adversely affected.
2. The interpretive center and support facilities proposed for construction on the south rim of Bodie bowl would eliminate the wildlife value of the only riparian grove of aspens in that area. Additional impacts to sage grouse strutting grounds would occur.
3. The location of the photographers' walk-in parking lot is within a highly sensitive summer range used as deer fawning and antelope kidding grounds. We believe irrevocable damage would occur to these key wildlife areas if public use facilities are developed.
4. The proposed bypass roads are objectionable as they will adversely impact valuable habitat for sage grouse and antelope. The Department of Fish and Game, in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management, Youth Conservation Corps, and the Bureau of Reclamation, has completed three meadow and water restoration projects in this area to improve wildlife habitat conditions. The development of increased public access could ultimately result in disruption of wildlife use and thus lower the effectiveness of these habitat improvement projects.
5. The Murphy Spring Interpretive Center and attendant facilities would be constructed within a spring-meadow environment that is extremely valuable for sage grouse, deer, antelope, and many other species of wildlife. The development of public use facilities would result in adverse impacts to wildlife.

1. L. Frank Goodson
2. California Department of Parks
and Recreation

-2-

We find that the vast area that would be included in the expanded park may be withdrawn from public hunting due to management policies of the Department of Parks and Recreation. If this occurs, significant hunting opportunities will be lost in a region where heavy pressure for the taking of sage grouse and deer is experienced each year. The continued reduction of lands open to public hunting could ultimately result in severe hunter concentrations in remaining open hunting areas. This could result in negative impacts for the hunting public, and may result in overcrowding that could create hunter safety hazards and a reduction in aesthetic values associated with this outdoor activity. We object to the closing of these lands for hunting purposes, and refer to our letter of August 24, 1964 regarding the continuance of public hunting within an expanding Bodie State Historic Park.

We suggest a meeting between our agency personnel to discuss the subject plan, and our mutual responsibilities in managing natural resources.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Robert D. Montgomery, Regional Manager of Region 5, at 350 Golden Shore, Long Beach, California 90802. The telephone number is (213) 590-5113.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this document.


Director

Part II — Responses to comments

Department of General Services — CEQA compliance has been completed for the acquisition of the two parcels of land which are noted on pages 54 and 55 in the Preliminary Plan. A notice of determination was signed October 4, 1976. No buildings will be demolished and no relocation assistance will be required.

Department of Transportation — An agreement for maintaining the main road from Murphy Springs to the boundary of Bodie State Historic Park has been completed. Your letter accurately reflects the status of "Clearwater Canyon Road."

Historical integrity is given a priority over automobile convenience. The impact of traffic via the most direct route and parking within the town site would have a deleterious effect on the "ghost town experience". The proposed plan will eliminate the visual impact of the automobile and help reduce vandalism and theft of artifacts. The walking distance from the proposed parking area to the town site is not considered unreasonable for the average visitor. The elderly and the handicapped will be given special consideration as they are at present.

Department of Fish and Game — Continued coordination will need to take place between our two departments. There have been many areas of agreement as the revised plan indicates.

- (1) A careful route selection should avoid impacting most wildlife habitat and sage grouse strutting grounds. Agreement has been reached with the Department of Fish and Game on this new route alignment.
- (2) The location of the proposed interpretive center has been moved in order that it has less impact on wildlife. Environmental effects on a grove of aspens and its wildlife habitat will be eliminated by this new proposal.
- (3) The photographers' walk-in overlook parking lot has been eliminated as well as many other features in the original plan. This will eliminate potential impact on wildlife. A new alignment of the bypass road has been worked out with the Department of Fish and Game. See number (1) above. No roads will affect restoration projects to improve wildlife habitat conditions.
- (4) No interpretive center is planned for Murphy Springs.

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 - Bureau of Land Management
- State of California:
 - Department of Fish and Game
 - Department of Conservation
 - Department of Transportation
- County of Mono:
 - Department of Public Works
 - Board of Supervisors
- Historic Societies, Environment Groups, Mining Interest, and other concerned publics.